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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, June 13, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 185 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Now comes a ring tone that only teens can hear

IN THAT OLD BATTLE OF the wills between young people and their keepers, the young have found a new weapon—a cell phone ring tone that many adults cannot hear.

In settings where cell phone use is forbidden—

NOW COMES/ A4

Day of reckoning at hand, says GMA

Pushes Charter change in Freedom Day speech

By Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

REMINDING THE NAtion that country's heroes "did not sacrifice to create an independent nation where politics takes precedence over progress," President Macapagal-Arroyo said the day of reckoning on Charter change was just around the corner.

"Our people will soon be called upon to make a decision that can bring an end to the political deadlocks that have stalled our efforts to take our nation to the next level," the President said yesterday in her Independence Day speech at the Quirino Grandstand and later at the vin d'honneur in Malacañang.

"The choice is for us to make whether we continue to live up to the vision of our national heroes or continue to watch helplessly while our political system degenerates and our economy is trapped in the mire of uncertainty," she said.

Ms Arroyo was referring to the people's initiative being pushed by the group "Sigaw ng Bayan" when she said the people would soon decide on Charter change (Cha-cha), according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

DAY/ A6

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo leads the celebration of the 108th anniversary of Independence Day at the Luneta. Among those helping her pull the rope to hoist the giant Philippine flag are (from right) Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero, acting Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo, Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. LYN RILLON

CHIEF Justice Artemio Panganiban (center) and Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echiverri lead the Freedom Day celebration at the Bonifacio Monument. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SC insists Leo execution was correct

By Armand N. Nocum and Nancy Carvajal

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY STOOD firm on its 1996 ruling that sent convicted rapist Leo Echegaray to his death, in light of a brewing storm over a public statement by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban that the court may have committed an irreversible "judicial error" in the case.

"No! No! No! The court will stand by its decision," court spokesperson Ismael Khan said, when asked if the high tribunal felt responsible for Echegaray's execution by lethal injection seven years ago.

Khan was equally emphatic when asked if the court would try to rectify the supposed mistake.

"No! No! No! That is a decision that has been implemented already," he said.

Talking to reporters yesterday, Panganiban said his statement before lawyers on May 31 that Echegaray should not have been executed but meted out a penalty of life in prison was merely a "reiteration of an old opinion" of his which he spoke about in several books written between 1998 and 2000.

Echegaray, a house painter, was condemned to death by a trial court for the rape of the 10-year-old daughter of his common-law wife.

The Supreme Court later affirmed the trial court's verdict, clearing the way for his execution in 1999.

Panganiban has said that the trial court failed to prove that Echegaray was the father or stepfather of the girl, which would have made his crime heinous and, thus, punishable by death.

The storm over Panganiban's remarks fol-

SC INSISTS/ A4

CBCP warns of subtle dictatorship

By PDI Bureaus

A "SUBTLE DICTATORSHIP" IS ENSLAVing Filipinos, the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said at a rally yesterday.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo identified the so-called "disguised authoritarian rule" as one of several problems the country needed to free itself from.

"Without these, the celebration of Philippine Independence Day in this Year of Social Concerns would be more meaningful," he said in a speech at the protest rally in Iloilo City.

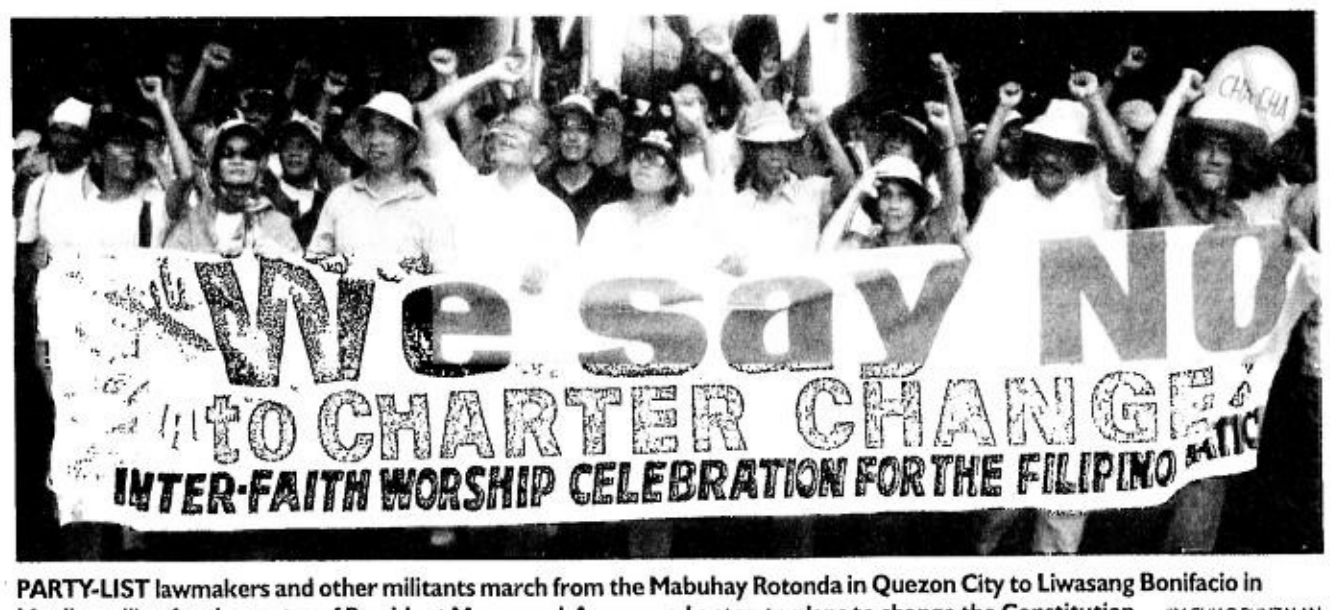
Lagdameo made no clear reference to President Macapagal-Arroyo who has been heavily criticized for allegedly curtailing civil liberties in the name of national security.

Ms Arroyo's opponents have blamed the military for what they said were the extrajudicial killings of more than 600 left-wing activists since she took office in 2001. Her administration has denied any responsibility and ordered an investigation of the killings.

Militant groups staged marches and protests in Manila and other major urban centers to condemn the wave of killings, efforts by Ms Arroyo's followers to revise the 1987 Constitution and her refusal to agree to their calls to step down over vote-rigging and corruption allegations.

Police said they detained 13 left-wing

CBCP/ A9



PARTY-LIST lawmakers and other militants march from the Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City to Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo and a stop to plans to change the Constitution. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

GMA heckler, 13 other Cavite protesters held

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

KAWIT, CAVITE—THIS TIME, THE POLICE were ready for Ma. Theresa Pangilinan.

The 23-year-old militant was walking toward the historic Aguinaldo Shrine here to join colleagues for a lightning Independence Day protest when a policewoman in civilian clothes accosted her.

Pangilinan, who won national attention as the graduate who heckled Presi-

GMA/ A8

WORLD DAY VS CHILD LABOR

Families of working minors get aid

By DJ Yap and Blanche Rivera

NINE-YEAR-OLD CHRISTIAN USED TO spend 15 hours a week gluing together and packing slippers to help his impoverished family in Caloocan City.

Now he can use the time to do his homework or play with his friends.

Two hundred children like Christian will be able to stop working this year, following the launch yesterday of a livelihood and education program for the families of working minors.

On June 12, the country celebrated Independence Day as well as World Day Against Child Labor.

"At no time in their young lives should children have to work. A child's place is in school, not in a factory," said Neil Kearney, general secretary of the International Textile, Garments and Leather Workers Federation.

The ITGLWF, an organization of trade unions, recently kicked off the third phase of a three-year program seeking the elimination of child labor in the Philippines, particularly in the garment, textile and leather industries.

The first and second phases involved generating awareness among members of the community about the problem of child labor, building alliances with other organizations, and strengthening advocacy for a national government policy on the issue.

The project covers 200 families from Metro Manila and neighboring provinces, like Rizal and Bulacan. They will be given a livelihood package on the condition that they stop employing their children.

"We have signed a memorandum of agreement with the families, schools and barangay. The families will be mon-

FAMILIES/ A4

Respect political agitators—they prepare ground for change

By Peter Jaynul V. Uckung
Contributor

(The author is a senior history researcher at the National Historical Institute.—Ed.)

COMMENTARY

THE NEXT TIME A GROUP OF DEMONstrators blocks traffic, don't swear, don't honk, just think: A traffic jam is a small price to pay when protesters hit the road for they force the government to do something good for the people.

Filipinos may do well to respect the angry crowd of demonstrators, or listen to the impassioned appeals of union leaders for they tell us truths we cannot seek for ourselves.

History speaks of the power of political agitation.

On Feb. 17, 1872, a silent crowd gathered to witness how three Filipino priests were garroted. Accused of aiding anti-Spanish movements, Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jacinto Zamora and Jose Burgos were prime targets for elimination by the regular Spanish clergy, who stood to lose control of the colonial churches.

By killing the priests, the colonial mas-

RESPECT/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE V. PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/06/12/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Police clueless on latest blasts

Cops stumped by shadowy group

By Luige A. del Puerto and Marlon Ramos, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ALTHOUGH A SHADOWY GROUP CALLING ITself "Taong Bayan at Kawal" had claimed responsibility for two of the blasts, police said yesterday they were clueless about the explosions that shook three neighborhoods in Quezon City, Manila and Lipa City almost simultaneously early Sunday morning.

The apparently low-grade explosions in Quezon City and Manila left no casualties, but at least eight people were injured in the blast in Lipa City, which was caused by a hand grenade planted in a bag in a jeepney parked at the back of a public market.

"The coincidence that the Quezon City and Manila explosions happened less than an hour apart may be difficult to explain, but evidence does not point to any direct connection between the two incidents," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Although Taong Bayan at Kawal had also claimed responsibility for the June 6 bombing of the Grepalife building in Makati, police said they were at a loss as to who were behind the group.

In a press briefing, Pagdilao said the manner of the attacks and the type of explosives used in Lipa City, the police bus in Quezon City and the mysterious blast at the the police station at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila were different.

"Our preliminary investigations have not established any common denominator to link up all these incidents, (either those in) Batangas or in Manila," Pagdilao said. "As to specific identities of people (who might have done it), we don't have anything to bring to the courts, no concrete evidence, and no probable cause that might result in a conviction as yet."

The claim by Taong Bayan at Kawal that it was responsible for the Quezon City and Manila explosions was being treated "with prudent suspicion that some quarters may just be riding on these incidents to promote their own agenda," Pagdilao said.

Non-existent

"As far as we are concerned, such group is non-existent," he added.

The blast at the Manila police station remained a mystery. While an employee and nearby residents reported hearing a loud explosion, police found no trace of any explosive device in the vicinity.

Pagbilao said the Metro Manila explosions were apparently designed more to scare people than cause casualties.

A spokesman for the military ruled out the possibility that soldiers were part of the group and said the Armed Forces were not even inclined to investigate.

"This is the first time that we have heard about this group... I don't think there is involvement of any member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," said Col. Tristan Kison.

As a result of the explosions, the Makati police said it has beefed up security.

"We are on maximum deployment now to guard residential areas and the Central Business District. Some of our men even lack sleep," said Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio.

He said police visibility has been increased with round-the-clock monitoring by regular patrol units and Special Weapons and Tactics teams.

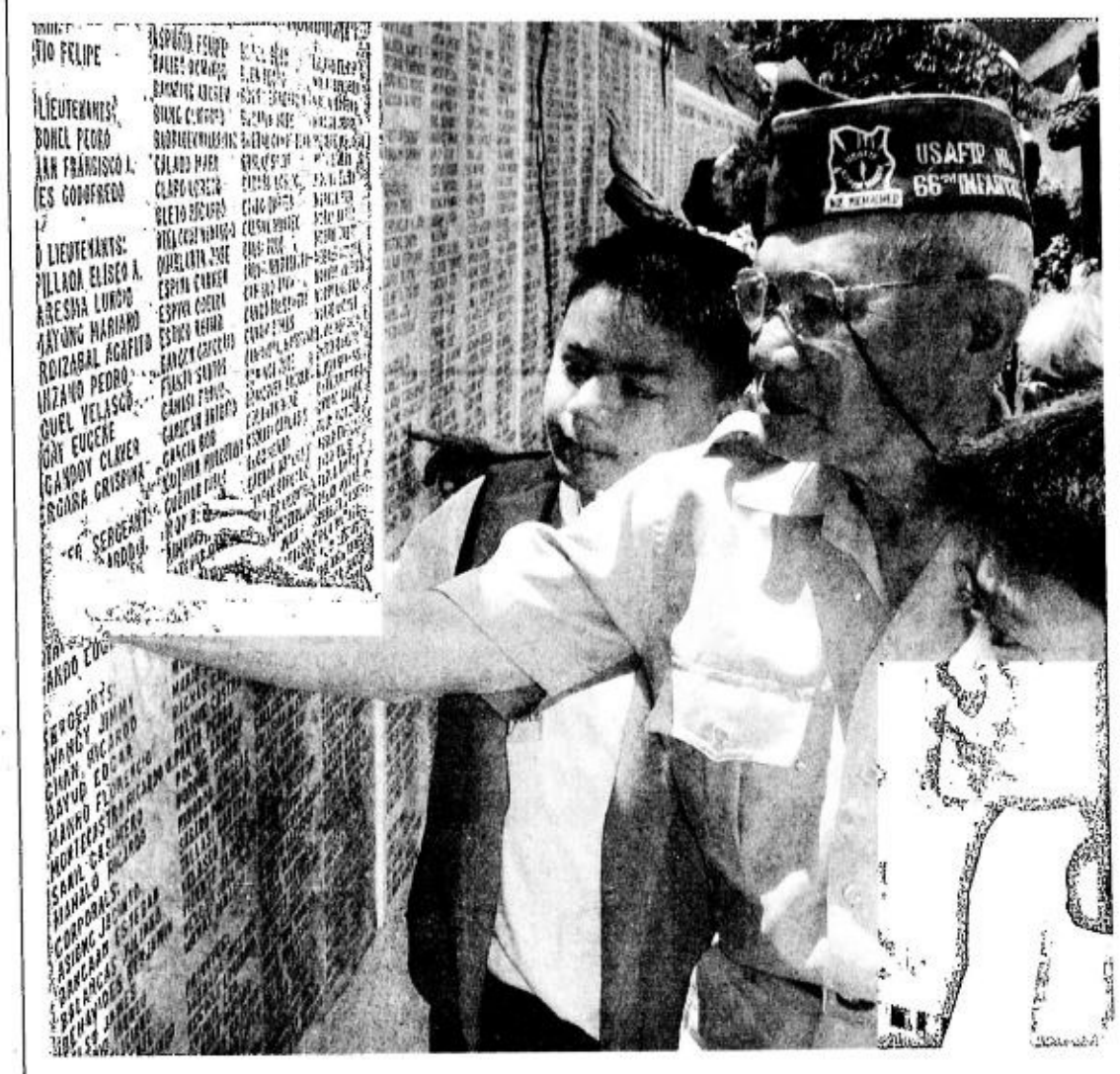
Chicken vendors

Meanwhile, officials at the regional PNP headquarters at Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna said yesterday investigators were looking into the possibility Sunday's grenade blast in Lipa City was an offshoot of a squabble between groups of chicken vendors selling chickens.

Reds, rightists

Senior Supt. David Quimio, Lipa City police chief, said they were not discounting the possibility that communist rebels or rightist elements were behind the attack.

Quimio said they were also not discounting the possibility that the blast was related to the explosions in Metro Manila or the failed assassination attempt on Governor Sanchez. *With Tarra V. Quismundo and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*



PASSING IT ON

A veteran of World War II points out to two boys the name of a fallen comrade on a memorial wall in Baguio City – which serves as a reminder that freedom in order to be preserved must be fought for – on the occasion of the observance of Independence Day yesterday. EV ESPIRITU/ PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Farmer-leader slain in C. Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—ON THE eve of the 108th anniversary of Independence Day, assassins struck anew killing a farmers' group leader in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, 29 km northeast of this city.

Rodolfo de los Santos was the 77th victim of political attacks on leaders and members of groups led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and allied party-list organizations in Central Luzon since 2005, the human rights advocate Karapatan said on Monday.

He was a provincial council member of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon, a chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

Senior Insp. Nemencio Atendido, Bongabon police chief, said De los Santos, 32, was sitting in front of a neighbor's store along the highway in Barangay Oliveti just after 5 p.m. on Monday when two gunmen rode up on a blue motorcycle and pumped two bullets into his head at close range.

Atendido said one of the gunmen was in a camouflage uniform and his face was covered by a bonnet.

The murder followed that of Bayan Muna coordinator Manuel Nardo in Pampanga on May 13 and of Kilusan Para sa Pambansa Demokrasya organizer Ana Liza Abanador-Gadian in Bataan on May 18.

In Tabuk, Kalinga, villagers staged a rally and caravan in the town center on Monday for slain activist and peace pact holder Markus Bangit.

Bangit, head of the elders' desk of Cordillera Peoples Alliance and vice chair of Bayan Muna-Kalinga, was gunned down on Thursday night in San Isidro, Isabela, by five armed men who were aboard a dark blue Mitsubishi Delica. *Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Miriam bats for repeal of law sanctioning 'honor killing'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

KILLING A PERSON IS A HEINOUS CRIME that carries the death penalty. But this is not so in the case of a husband who kills his wife after catching her having sex with someone else.

That is because, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has pointed out, Article 247 of the Revised Penal Code prescribes the penalty of *destierro* for "death or physical injuries under exceptional circumstances."

Santiago branded this as "abhorrent" and said the provision must be repealed. Senate Bill 2146, which she filed, seeks to make this possible.

Destierro or banishment is a prohibition against entering a particular place or places, limiting one's access to no nearer than outside a 25-km radius of a particular area. Working like a restraining order, the light penalty does not carry a jail term.

Article 247 states: "Any legally married person who, having surprised his spouse in the act of committing sexual intercourse with another person, shall kill any of them or both of them in the act or immediately thereafter, or shall inflict upon them any serious physical injury, shall suffer the penalty of destierro.

"If he shall inflict upon them physical injuries of any other kind, he shall be exempt from punishment."

The article further provides: "These rules shall be applicable, under the same circumstances, to parents with respect to their daughters under eighteen years of age, and their seducer, while the daughters are living with their parents."

Santiago said the article was a "thinly disguised Philippine version of honor killing," practically exempting an accused from punishment even if he committed the serious crimes of homicide, parricide, murder or serious physical injuries.

Santiago called attention to a case in Cebu in 2002 when a regional trial court sentenced a *buko* (coconut) vendor to destierro for killing his wife and her teenage lover after he caught them in a sexual embrace on a hillside. The vendor was barred from coming within 30-km of their barangay in Carcar, Cebu, for two years.

She said destierro was not even intended as a penalty but meant to "remove the perpetrating spouse or parent from the vicinity and to protect him or her from acts of reprisal principally by relatives of the deceased spouse or child."

Gordon: Poll passion remains

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. RICHARD GORDON IS WILLING TO DEBATE Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. further on the automated election bill when Congress opens its third regular session late next month.

Gordon said he was amenable to debating the measure even though it had moved from the period of interpellation, the time allowed for debates, to the period of amendments.

Gordon vowed to remain "passionate" about his pet piece of legislation after drawing flak for his emotional privilege speeches rebuking the opposition senators whom he accused of delaying its passage at last Thursday's adjournment.

"I will be passionate about fighting for what I believe will bring true freedom and independence to our country, and nobody who calls this 'youthful exuberance' is going to stop me," he said later in a statement.

Pimentel had branded Gordon's call to put the bill to a vote as "youthful exuberance" and sought a "dispassionate" debate when Congress begins its next regular session on July 24.

Gordon flared up hours before Thursday's adjournment on learning that his bill would not be passed because the opposition had sought to further interpellate him. He took the floor and assailed his colleagues, going to the extent of daring Sen. Sergio Osmeña III to a fight.

The bill seeks to authorize the Commission on Elections to partially use a tamper-proof automated election system (AES) in the 2007 elections and fully implement the system in subsequent elections.

The measure amends and expands the scope of the current automation law, Republic Act No. 8436, by authorizing the use of an AES in the voting, counting, consolidation, canvassing and transmission of election and other processes.

Phivolcs discovers 5th crater on Mt. Bulusan

By Niño Jesus Orbeta, Ephraim Aguilar and Bobby Labalan
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—THE PHILIPPINE Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has discovered a fifth crater on Mt. Bulusan, a report on the aerial survey conducted by Phivolcs released yesterday said.

The report also quoted Dr. Ernesto Corpuz, a Manila-based Phivolcs volcanologist, as saying that based on the aerial survey of the summit and areas around the volcano yesterday morning, a magmatic eruption was not imminent.

Corpuz said that although steaming explosion pits were seen, there were no lava extrusions observed on the summit.

The report said Bulusan was silent during the 24-hour observation period with no volcanic earthquakes recorded and steam emissions were observed to be "generally weak to moderate."

Alert level two remained hoisted over the volcano, however, as Phivolcs said more explosions were expected.

The agency said that if ash explosions occurred, they were more likely to affect the summit and upper slopes only.

But the ash could be carried several kilometers depending on the wind, it said.

"This time of year, the northeastern and northern sectors are most susceptible although near surface winds may also carry ash to the west and northwest," the agency said.

The four-km permanent danger zone (PDZ) around Bulusan remained off-limits to people. And Phivolcs warned that areas outside the PDZ should be approached with caution.

"Should an unusually large explosion occur, areas outside the danger zone may be affected by volcanic flows," the latest Phivolcs bulletin said.

It cautioned that gullies, which lead to the middle or upper slopes, should also be avoided because lahar and steam flows could be channeled to these areas, especially during the rainy season.

The Office of Civil Defense, meanwhile, said in its report that five families from Barangay Cogon, Irosin town, were evacuated from their homes.

The evacuees said it was better to be safe than sorry since their houses were very close to the volcano.

They said they saw a "crack" in the volcano fronting their houses through which lava could flow.

They also could not stand the smell of sulfur, they said.

In Casiguran, Sorsogon, local government personnel went around checking on residents who might have been stricken ill by the ashfall.

Mayor Edwin Hamor said they were conducting a survey to determine who should be given priority help should Bulusan finally erupt.

He assured local residents the local government had enough provisions for their initial needs.

But the mayor admitted he was a bit at a loss since this was the first time his administration was responding to such a situation.

PCGG to seek return of bank dividends

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government said yesterday it would pursue its demand to the management of Equitable-PCI Bank to explain the withdrawal by Martin Romualdez of P137 million in sequestered funds deposited under the account of the Romualdez-owned Trans Middle East Philippines Equities Inc. (TMEPEI).

The PCGG said in a statement released yesterday that the October 2005 withdrawal of the funds, which represented dividends pertaining to TMEPEI's sequestered shares in the bank, violated a January 2003 Sandiganbayan order that those shares, "including the interest earned thereon," be deposited in escrow with the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The PCGG maintained that the money should have remained in escrow until the issue on the ownership of the shares had been resolved with finality in Civil Case No. 035 filed by the PCGG against Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez and others in July 1987.

Martin Romualdez is a son of Kokoy Romualdez, the younger brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

The PCGG said it "will take appropriate steps to recover the said amount and institute legal actions against the persons responsible for the illegal withdrawal of the deposit."

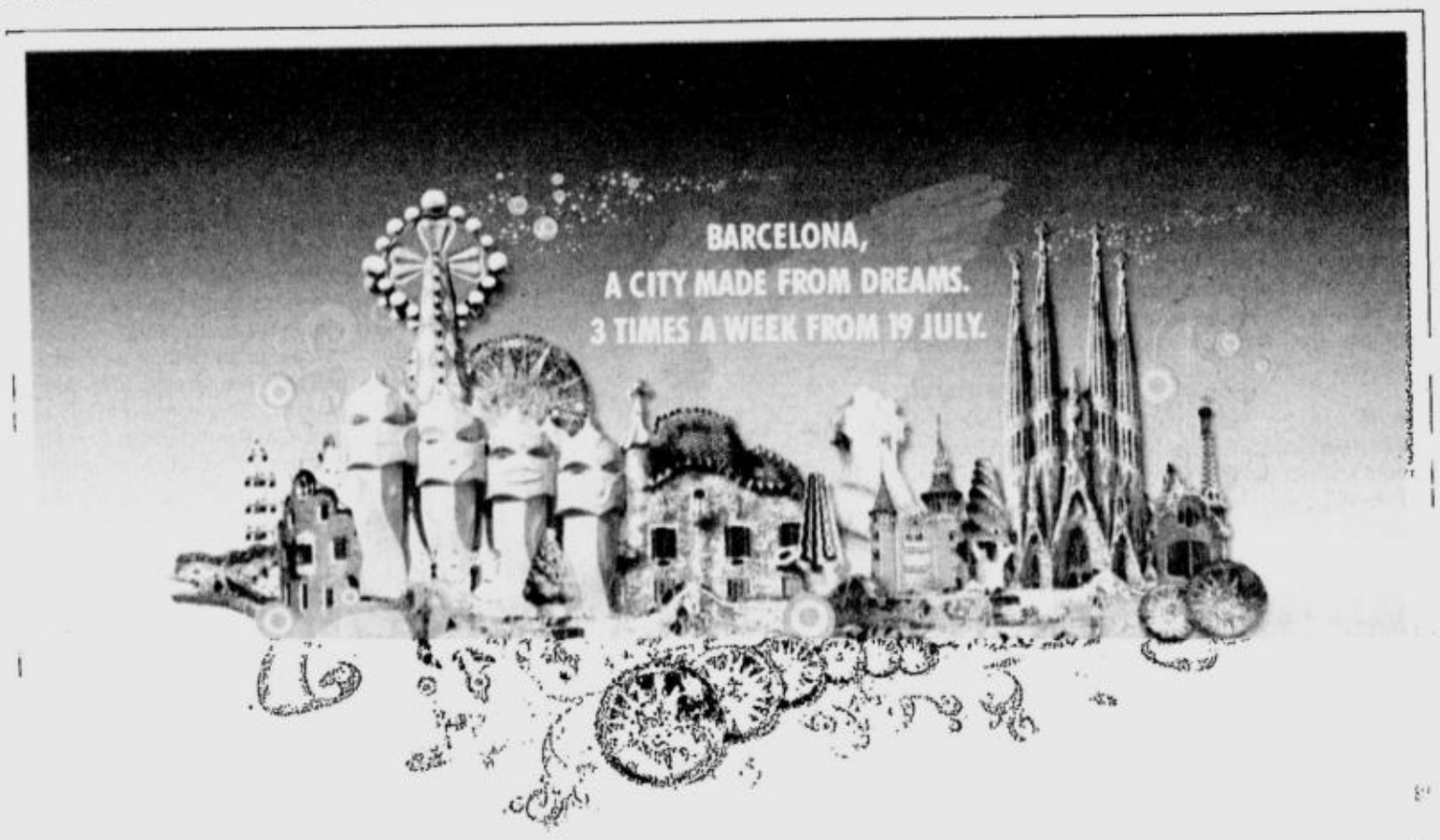
The PCGG sequestered TMEPEI's 51,827,640 shares in Equitable in April 1986 because they were allegedly part of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses, their relatives and cronies. The shares are currently equivalent to 7.13 percent of the bank's outstanding capital stock.

Last Friday, the Supreme Court overturned a Sandiganbayan ruling that had barred TMEPEI from voting its shares in Equitable-PCIBank during the bank's annual stockholders meeting in May. It also voided the election to the board of another representative in lieu of TMEPEI's nominee.

The high court ordered the bank's board and corporate secretary to recognize TMEPEI's nominee as the duly elected nominee representing the sequestered shares.

Meanwhile, the PCGG clarified reports that Commissioner William Dichoso had resigned from the commission for unexplained reasons or that he disagreed with PCGG officials pursuing the possibility of out-of-court settlements with the Marcoses over their allegedly ill-gotten wealth.

The PCGG said Dichoso had to resign as commissioner after President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him to the board of the Development Bank of the Philippines.



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Child meet slated

THE ASIAN SOCIETY for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (Ascapap) will hold its fourth international congress at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila in Quezon City on June 14-16.

The congress, which is being held in the Philippines for the first time, will be hosted by the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists of the Philippines in partnership with the Philippine Mental Health Association. Dr. Cornelio G. Banaag Jr., Ascapap president-elect, is also president of the congress.

Ascapap was organized in Japan in 1995 to bring together child psychiatrists and other professionals involved in the care of children and adolescents in Asia.

Speakers include experts from the US, Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, China and the Philippines, according to the organizing committee led by Dr. Jocelyn Nieva Yatco-Bautista and Regina de Jesus. Dr. Sonia Castro-Rodriguez chairs the scientific program committee.

For particulars, contact the Ascapap secretariat at tel. 637-4699 and 635-9858 or email ascapap@tri-isys.com; Website: www.ascapap.org

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Carmi Martin

IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional treatments.

Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

Restaurateur Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez is another satisfied IPL client. She relates: "Some skin problems I had were freckles and a bit of melasma. IPL gave me a more even complexion. It helped remove the freckles and the melasma. I remember after the 3rd or 4th session, there was a big improvement. But even after the 1st session, I could already see an effect because my pores tightened. Somebody told me my skin was glowing...and this was right after an IPL treatment! The best thing about it is there's no downtime. Since I like going to the beach and going out of town, I'm always exposed to the sun. That's why I go for IPL treatments after an outing. I'm really happy with it!"

Irene, Carmi and Cristina are only three of many satisfied clients who have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles and other skin discolorations. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez

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Families of working minors get aid

From page A1

itored to ensure that they are no longer using child workers," said Angelita Adviento, ITGLWF Philippines coordinator.

"In exchange, the parents will receive livelihood services, like training seminars, as well as capital to start a small business," she added.

The children would also get an educational fund, or allowances for their uniforms, textbooks, pencils, notebooks and other school materials, Adviento said.

Special day

Parents who violate the terms of the MOA would no longer be eligible for future programs. However, Adviento expressed confidence that many of the parents would strictly abide by the provisions.

Yesterday, the 200 beneficiaries of the program, accompanied by family and friends, gathered at the ballroom of the Quezon Memorial Circle for a "Time to Play" activity in celebration of World Day Against Child Labor.

The children played parlor games and tug-of-war, joined a sack race and participated in a face-painting contest.

Christian, an incoming Grade 4 pupil at the Morning Breeze Elementary School in Caloocan, said child laborers like him didn't usually play or had fun with other kids.

Every day after school, Christian and his 6-year-old sister would help out in the family's small business. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., he would glue together slipper parts while his sister would stick the size numbers onto the footwear.

Gains

Christian said working for his family was not too much trouble. However, he was thankful for the chance to continue his studies without having to work.

Michihiro Ishibashi, a senior specialist on workers at the International Labor Organization (ILO), said there had been many gains in the campaign against child labor throughout the world.

A recent ILO study found that child labor, particularly in the worst zones, had declined.

"This is a good development but we're not satisfied. Our target is to completely eradicate child labor in the world," Ishibashi said. "The best way to achieve a child-labor-free society is to guarantee decent work and decent wages for all parents."

Kearney agreed that much was needed to be done in the campaign against child labor.

Global march

Addressing the children and their parents, he said: "Right now, there are 200 of you. The 200 need to become 2,000."

The first global march against child labor was held at the same place where it started eight years ago—the Quezon Memorial Circle.

With some 200 children from various shelters and organizations, 37 government institutions and nongovernment organizations yesterday launched the national coalition against child labor in commercial agriculture (NCACLCA) at the park's peace bell area.

Coordinator Alex Apit claimed this was the first national coalition in the world to specifically address child labor in commercial agriculture.

There are 246 million children workers in the world, 171 million of whom work under hazardous conditions, according to the ILO.

"This is where the global march started in 1998, the march that resulted in the passage of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor," Apit recalled in a speech before coalition members.

Convention 182

The Philippines hosted the first global march against child labor on Jan. 17, 1998, gathering NGOs, human rights groups and government representatives at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

The march snaked through other Asian countries, like Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, India and Pakistan, before it met the delegations from Africa and Europe in Geneva, Switzerland, in June 1998.

The ILO subsequently passed Convention 182 which mandates member states to implement "immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor as a matter of urgency."

The Philippines ratified Convention No. 182 in 2001 and passed Republic Act No. 9131 identifying the worst forms of child labor soon after.

"History teaches us that this day is important to end child labor ... We can eliminate it," said Apit, who is also director of the Kamalayan Development Foundation involved in antichild labor advocacy.

Hot spots

All actions by a child that produce services or products are considered child labor. There are, however, favorable, unfavorable and worst forms of child labor, according to Apit. The worst forms are what the NCACLCA seeks to eliminate with their renewed campaign for social awareness.

There are around four million child workers in the Philippines, of which 2.8 million are working under the "worst forms of child labor," Apit said, citing data from the National Statistics Office.

Young workers in the commercial agriculture sector make up 2.1 million of the 2.8 million children in the worst forms of child labor. The other sectors are mining and quarrying, deep sea fishing, prostitution and domestic service.

The Department of Labor and Employment has identified commercial plantations in agriculture, particularly sugarcane plantations, as "hot spots" for children workers, that expose them to hazardous pesticides and very difficult working conditions.

Dialogue with parents

Apit, however, said work in the fruit and rubber plantations in Mindanao were the most hazardous for children, followed by the work in sugarcane plantations, where children often get cuts from the sharp leaves of the sugarcane.

Children in commercial agriculture are paid from P30 to 100 per day, depending on their age. The younger children get lower wages, according to Apit.

"They are also exposed to harmful pesticides which cause health problems. The effects are not immediately felt, but they can lead to cancer," he said.

Apit said studies by the University of the Philippines Manila's Department of Pharmacology had shown a link between exposure to pesticides and respiratory ailments among workers.

The NCACLCA just concluded a dialogue with parents of children working in sugarcane plantations last month. The coalition would also set a dialogue with hacienda owners in Eastern Visayas.

"All institutions blame child labor on the parents, so we wanted to validate. And we learned from the parents that their children volunteer to help them earn a living, seeing the measly income they get from a day's work," Apit said.

IN THE KNOW

Child workers in RP

AS OF January 2005, one in 12 Filipino children was working. Based on the latest Labor Force Survey released by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, out of a total 25.3 million children aged 5 to 17 years old, 2.1 million were working.

A child is an individual below 18 years of age, as defined in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Work is any form of economic activity, which is paid or unpaid, legal or illegal, in formal or informal sectors.

Child labor is work done by children that prevents them from going to school or exposes their health to danger. Presently, there are no data on child labor in the Philippines, according to BLES.

Most of the working children were between 15 and 17 years old and found in Northern Mindanao (324,000) and Eastern Visayas (221,000). The majority did not finish elementary school and worked an average of 26 hours each week.

There were 132,000 working children aged between 5 and 9 years old, while 748,000 were between 10 and 14 years old.

In Metro Manila, there were 59,000 working children, more than half females. It was the only region where there were more female than male working children.

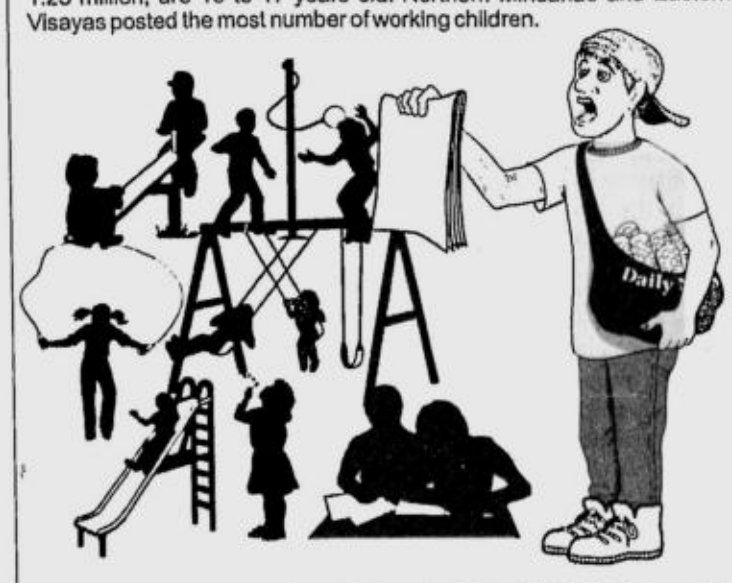
Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Around one in 12 children working

As of the latest Labor Force Survey, 8.4 percent or 2.13 million children aged 5 to 17 years are working. Of this number, close to 60 percent, or 1.25 million, are 15 to 17 years old. Northern Mindanao and Eastern Visayas posted the most number of working children.



Source: Working Children in our Midst, May 2006 Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics

Kate Pedroso PDI Research

*A child is an individual below 18 years of age, as defined in the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

SC insists Leo execution was correct

From page A1

lowed the vote in Congress to abolish the death penalty law, under which six other convicts were executed after Echegaray.

The Chief Justice told reporters yesterday that he raised the question of Echegaray to show "the sheer folly" of maintaining the death penalty because if a judicial error occurred, such an error could no longer be corrected once the punishment was carried out.

Khan said the supposed error was based mostly on the fact that Echegaray was identified in the rape charge as the "father" of the rape victim.

Personal view

"The fact remains, however, that it was ruled in the proceeding that he was the common-law husband of the mother of the child, which means that's also subject to the death penalty," Khan said in a phone interview.

Khan said Panganiban was standing by his statement.

"He has stated this as his personal view and he certainly did not mean to foist it on the other members of the court," he said.

Khan also said Panganiban "has always been historically consistent in his opposition to the death penalty."

'No one listened to me'

"He had been speaking about it since he was an associate justice. But the statement appeared to have kicked up a storm now because of the strong emotions generated by the repeal of the Death Penalty Law and the fact that he is now speaking about it as the chief justice," Khan said.

Panganiban yesterday himself stressed this point.

Speaking in Filipino, he said: "I cannot be accused of saying it only now because I have been talking about it. No one had listened, only now that I am the Chief Justice."

He said he deemed it appropriate to talk about the error during the launch of a book on death penalty cases published by the Free Legal Assistance Group.

Compensation issue

He said he agreed with the FLAG lawyers' stand on capital punishment and thought it timely to reiterate his stand.

"There's nothing new," he said.

Asked what could be done to compensate the family of Echegaray, the Chief Justice said: "Whatever is the effect of that question, let the lawyers debate on it. Eventually, that might reach the court. Therefore, I don't want to preempt their possible solutions."

Panganiban spoke to reporters during the Independence Day celebration at the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City, where he was the guest of honor.

No finger-pointing

Pressed to comment on possible monetary compensation, Panganiban said: "I have done my part. It is already being debated ... It is up to those who are debating it what to do."

He would not blame anyone for the possible judicial mistake.

"Whether it was the lawyers or the justices, the fact is he was executed," Panganiban said, when asked if the defense lawyers could be faulted for not pointing out that it was not an incestuous rape and that Echegaray should have only been meted out life imprisonment.

"It was proved during the trial that he was only a lover of the mother of the victim not a stepfather or father," he said.

SC resolution needed

"It does not mean that he was not a rapist. The only question is what could have been the penalty," he said.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the Supreme Court should first come out with a formal resolution stating that it erred in affirming the death sentence on Echegaray before his family could be compensated.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the compensation issue should be left to the judiciary to decide, instead of having Congress pass a "specific legislation" for Echegaray's family.

"The Chief Justice was only expressing his personal opinion and it carries no legal weight unless the high court comes out with a resolution adopting his position," Escudero said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Panganiban's admission that the Supreme Court might have erred on Echegaray bolstered President Macapagal Arroyo's move to do away with the death penalty. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Gil C. Cabacungan*

Baby not interested in P10-M indemnity plan

By Norman Bordadora

SHE DOESN'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING to do with a proposed P10 million compensation for her family. All she is interested in is Leo Echegaray paying for what he did to her.

Barangay chair Martin Diño, a former guardian of Baby Echegaray, said yesterday this was what his former ward told him after Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban admitted that the Supreme Court may have erred in upholding the death sentence on Leo, who was executed in 1999.

Panganiban's statement prompted calls in Congress for the family of Echegaray to be paid P10 million in compensation for his purported wrongful death.

"She (said) that she doesn't want (to have) anything to do with the P10 million," Diño said.

Asked whether or not Baby still thought Leo deserved to die by lethal injection, Diño said she was only interested in Leo suffering for what he did.

"She said we were just following the law at that time. If there was no death penalty at that time, it would have been fine with her," Diño said.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Baby but was told she did not want to be interviewed lest she get in trouble with her relatives.

'Let me be'

The INQUIRER also tried to reach her by phone but her mobile was turned off.

"She asked that people let them be. She said that if the (Supreme Court) made a mistake, then some people must be taken to account," Diño said at his office in Quezon City.

Diño said Baby also asked him if the other justices shared the opinion of Panganiban.

Baby was just 10 years old when she was raped by Leo inside their home in Quezon City in April 1994.

Now 22, she has reportedly mended fences with her uncles and aunts who live in the same neighborhood as she.

Baby also already has a family of her own but still supports her four younger siblings in their education.

The Free Legal Assistance Group yesterday called on the Echegaray family to seriously consider seeking compensation.

Cookie Diokno, FLAG secretary general, said that the decision on whether or not to pursue compensation from the government following Leo's supposed wrongful death remained with his surviving next of kin.

"We are open to the idea of pursuing the indemnification of Leo's family. That is something that we are looking into," Diokno said.

"Definitely, we will have to talk to the family if they'd want to push for their indemnification. Your reports have it that they no longer want to involve themselves in controversy," she added.

Ethics involved

Diokno said the family would have to be the ones to move for any form of compensation from the government and FLAG would just wait for their decision.

"There's a certain amount of ethics involved. We can't be the ones to approach them. People might think we're after the compensation as well," she said.

FLAG handled Leo's case after the Supreme Court's decision affirming his death sentence.

It said it was looking forward to the enactment of a law that would indemnify families of victims of wrongful deaths, as proposed by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

Now comes a ring tone that only teens can hear

From page A1

in class, for example—the unusual ring tone is perfect for signaling the arrival of a text message without being detected by an elder of the species.

"When I heard about it, I didn't believe it at first," said Donna Lewis, a technology teacher at the Trinity School in New York City.

"But one of the kids gave me a copy, and I sent it to a colleague. She played it for her first-graders. All of them could hear it, and neither she nor I could."

Some students have begun testing the boundaries of their new technology. One place was Michelle Musorofiti's freshman honors math class at Roslyn High School on Long Island in New York.

One recent morning, a high-pitched ring tone went off that set teeth on edge for anyone who could hear it. To the students' surprise, that group included their teacher.

"Whose cell phone is that?" demanded Musorofiti, who is 28.

"You can hear that?" one of them asked.

"Adults are not supposed to be able to hear that," said another, according to the teacher's account.

She heard that, Musorofiti said. "Now turn it off," she said.

The cell phone ring tone that Musorofiti heard was the offshoot of an invention called the Mosquito, which was developed last year by a Welsh security company to annoy teenagers and gratify adults—not the other way around.

Mosquito was marketed as a teenager repellent, an ear-splitting 17-kilohertz buzzer designed to help shopkeepers disperse young people loitering in front of their stores while leaving adults unaffected.

The principle behind it is a biological reality that hearing experts refer to as presbycusis, or aging ear. While Musorofiti is not likely to have it, most adults over 40 or 50 seem to have some symptoms, scientists say.

While most human communication takes place in a frequency range between 200 and 8,000 hertz (a hertz being the scientific unit of frequency equal to one cycle per second), most adults' ability to hear frequencies higher than that begins to deteriorate in early middle age.

But someone—a person unknown at this time, but probably not someone with presbycusis—realized that the Mosquito, which uses this common adult abnormality to the advantage of adults, could be turned against them.

So was the Mosquito noise reinvented as a ring tone. *New York Time News Service*

Correction

IN THE JUNE 10 ISSUE, an "In the Know" rejoinder on the Leo Echegaray case on Page A9 misstated that all the 15 members of the Supreme Court, including then Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, had concurred in the decision affirming the lower court's imposition of the death penalty on Echegaray. Panganiban, who is now the Chief Justice, yesterday told the INQUIRER that he was among the three members of the tribunal who dissented. By court tradition, the June 1996 decision was *per curiam* [by the court]—the authors were not identified and all the justices signed without any comment to show that the affirmation of the death penalty was a valid decision.

* * *

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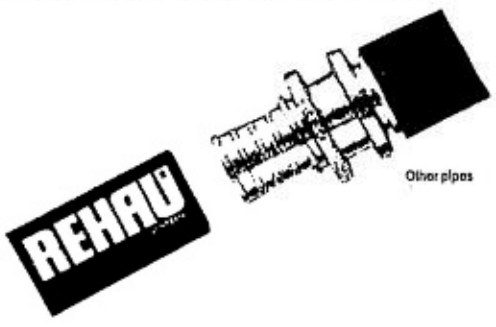

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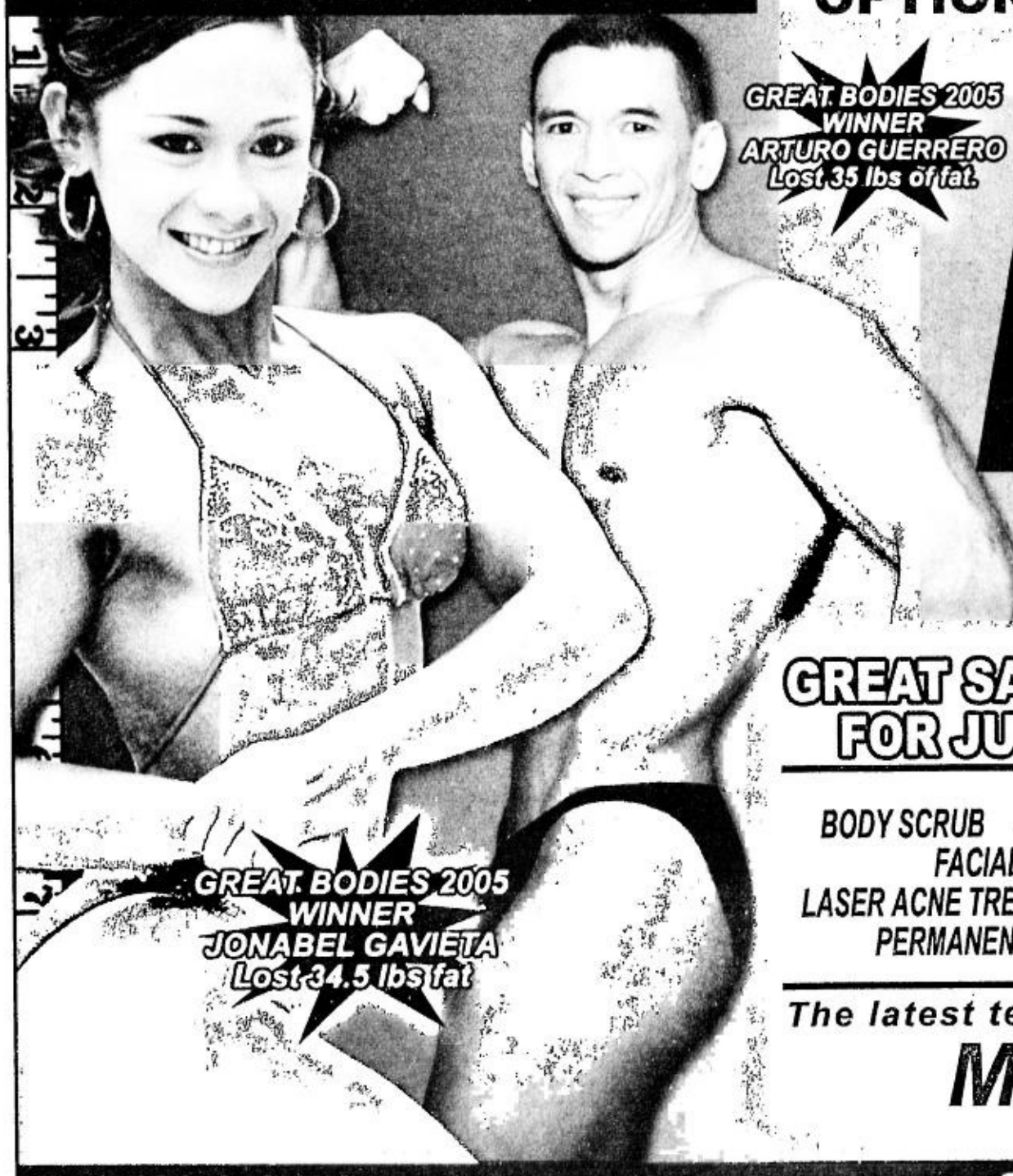

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Day of reckoning at hand, says GMA

From page A1

Ermita pointed out that Sigaw ng Bayan had already gathered the required number of signatures for a people's initiative, one of the three modes of amending the Constitution, the other two being a constituent assembly whose members are senators and congressmen and a constitutional convention whose delegates are elected by the people.

"(I)n the end, it's the people's decision, that's why it's called a people's initiative," Ermita told reporters.

Sigaw ng Bayan is set to file its petition in the Commission on Elections after it gathered more than 9 million signatures.

Proponents of a people's initiative must collect the signatures of at least 12 percent of all the registered voters nationwide and 3 percent in each legislative district.

Illegal

Citing a Supreme Court ruling (Santiago v Comelec), opponents of Sigaw ng Bayan's signature drive maintain that the people's initiative is illegal because of the absence of an enabling law.

Asked whether it was prudent for the President to make statements on Charter change in her Independence Day speech, Ermita said Ms Arroyo announced during her State of the Nation Address last year that her "vision" was to institute political reforms through Charter change.

The President's political adviser Gabriel Claudio said a people's initiative was the way to go to achieve Charter change.

"Well, unless the impasse or the deadlock between the House and the Senate could be resolved, I guess it would have to be a people's initiative," Claudio told reporters.

He said that even House leaders pushing for a constituent assembly were already saying that they would "throw their full support behind the people's initiative if the deadlock is not broken."

Stalled

The Cha-cha train of Malacañang has been stalled, with the Senate and the House of Representatives unable to come into any agreement on the proposal to amend the Charter through a constituent assembly convened by Congress.

The senators believe they have convinced members of the House that they can't do it alone in amending the Constitution.

"They have realized that there's no constitutional basis for their position that we vote jointly, and that voting separately is the key," Sen. Richard Gordon, who leads the upper chamber in the talks, said.

"They have no highway to amend the Constitution in a justifiable way."

In Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's view, the decision of House members to resume talks in August was a sign that they had realized that they need the Senate to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly (Con-ass).

"The House has realized that the first step—pushing the people's initiative—is dead in the water. They're trying to take another tack by getting the Senate to agree to a Con-ass," he said. "They can't railroad it."

Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, met with his House counterpart, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, on Thursday but failed to agree on anything except to meet again.

At the closed-door meeting, Gordon proposed that lawmakers focus on amending only the Charter's economic provisions, an offer roundly rejected by congressmen.

The two panels first sat down for a dialogue on May 24 to thresh out whether Congress should vote jointly or separately once convened into a constituent assembly.

The conflict stemmed from the provision in the Constitution that states that an amendment to or revision of the Charter may be proposed by Congress upon a vote of "three-fourths of all its members."

The dialogue came after senators outlined their position that Congress could amend the Charter without sitting as a constituent assembly, through legislation.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., for his part, said the Constitution would not be amended or revised unless the administration-dominated House agreed that the two chambers of Congress should vote separately on any amendment.

"No matter what they agree on, if they insist on their proposition that we vote jointly, it will be blocked in the Senate," he said.

Gordon voiced doubts the House could muster three-fourths of its members to pass a resolution to amend the Charter to pave the way for a shift to parliamentary government.

"I don't think they have the three-fourths vote on the shift to a parliamentary government. But even if they have, they still need to get the three-fourths vote in the upper House," he said.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara expressed the hope that the Senate could muster the three-fourths vote.

"Once the House agrees to vote separately, this Charter change will push through," he said.

Angara said a Con-ass was the only legal and expeditious way of amending the Constitution. He said a Con-con would be very expensive and would take a long time to conduct.

He said the people's initiative being pushed by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) and Sigaw ng Bayan was illegal not only because of the absence of an enabling law but also because this mode cannot be used to revise the Charter. *With a report by Philip C. Tubeza*

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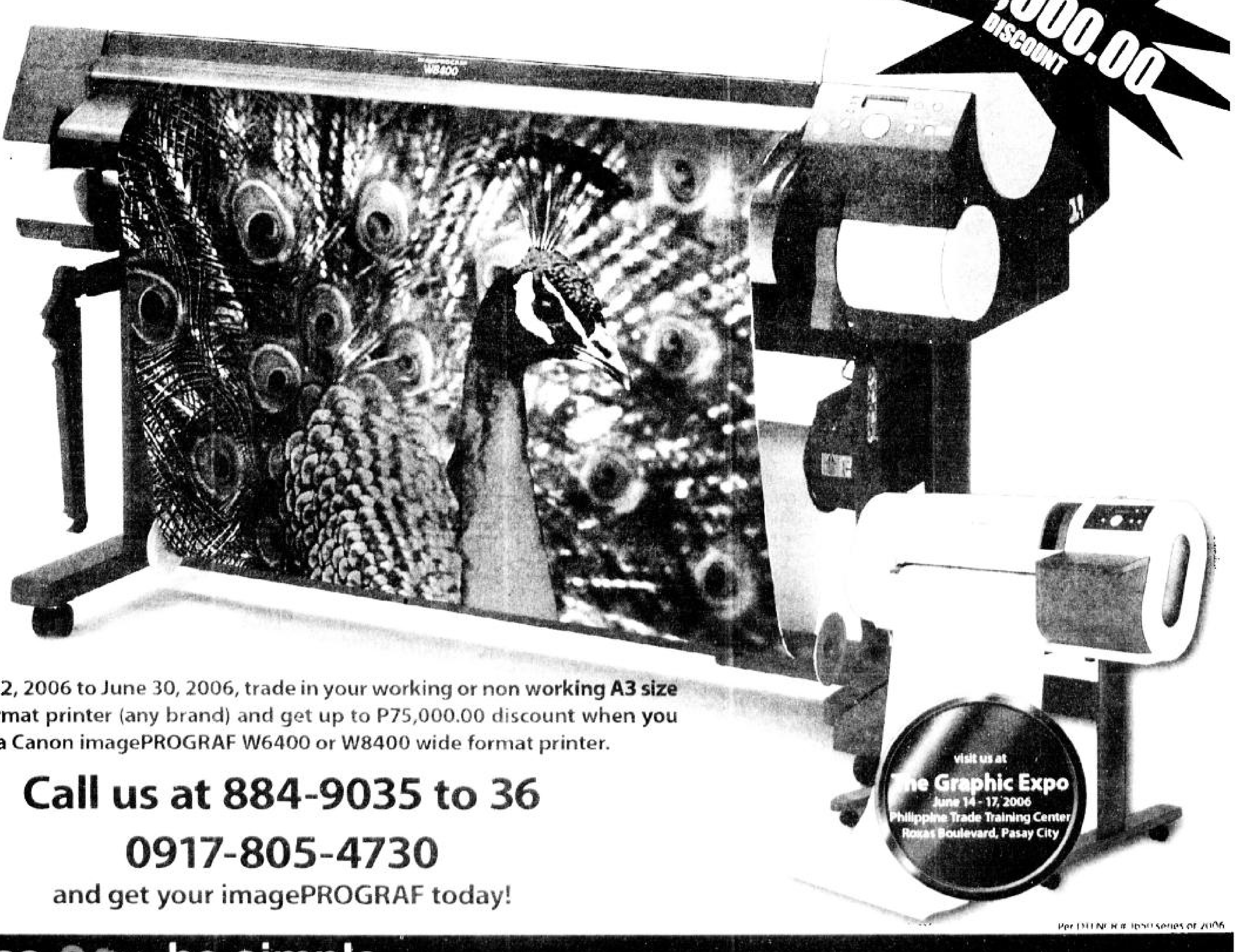

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Canon Delighting You Always

Respect political agitators–they prepare ground for change

From page A1

ters advertised that resisting their rule was folly. But the message that got across was: To fight for justice was holy.

The executions became the catalyst for a united front of protest. They also breathed life into the Propaganda Movement that would clamor for the equality of Filipinos and Spaniards before the law.

It was a peaceful but forceful call for reforms, and ushered in the age of intellectual heroes. In the politics of agitation, the propagandists were the moderates. Spawning a revolution was farthest from their minds, but they warned of its inevitability if reforms were not granted.

Since most of the movement's leaders belonged to the upper class, it was but natural to expect that the maximum results of reform would be for their benefit, namely wider political participation, greater freedom and a share in the Philippine economy.

This is not to say that the plight of the poorer Filipinos was forgotten, but it emphasized the mode of change the propagandists preferred.

Recognizing oppression

Instituting reforms does not encourage battles that devastate markets, destroy homes or obliterate an idyllic way of life. A revolution does.

The propagandists failed in their endeavor. Spain was too hassled by internal affairs that the grievances of the Filipinos had to wait until it was too late.

But while the peaceful appeal for change by the moderates was unsuccessful, their writings on the decadent rule of the colonial government helped the common Filipino recognize his own feeling of oppression.

He recognized the enormity of his helplessness and he felt the urge for immediate salvation. It compelled him to pursue the only avenue of righteous reaction offered to the inarticulate—revolution.

The call for assimilation with Spain became a call for separation.

Death to intellectuals

The intellectuals—masters of controlled criticisms and loyal reformists—were alienated and discarded by the whirlwind of revolutionary passion enveloping the land.

In the persecution that followed, the intellectuals were the first to be hunted down, imprisoned and executed. Many of them died disowning the revolution. Still, the masses looked up to them for guidance. And some of the elite did join the revolt and became leaders.

During the American rule, most of the leaders of the revolution settled for accommodation within the new colonial structure. Their drift from the original goal of the revolution showed the masses how leaders could betray their followers.

This compelled the masses to look for leaders in their own ranks. Resistance took on a new degree of intensity.

Workers organize

It was a new dawn for the radicals. Peasants began to organize. Workers began to form unions.

Despite the promise of emancipation by the new government, the peasants found themselves pretty much in the same quagmire as when they left it to fight for the revolution—a life of servitude, usury, high taxes and exploitation.

The early peasant movements displayed a quasi-religious state of armed belligerency, led by people with a messianic complex. Most of them declared adherence to the traditions of the old Katipunan.

There was a revival of the *pulajanes* in Negros Occidental. There were the *colorums* in Luzon and Surigao. Their uprising was fierce but ultimately doomed to fail in the face of concentrated military operations.

In 1922, the year the Soviet Union was established, the First Tenant Congress was held in Manila. The unionized farmers seized harvests from warehouses, declared strikes, destroyed dikes and irrigation systems, demonstrated in front of municipal buildings, and burned hectares of sugarcane fields, all in the name of basic rights, just compensation and land distribution.

And people began to listen.

First labor union

A rich landowner, Pedro Abad Santos (older brother of Jose Abad Santos), who fought in the Filipino-American War and was captured and pardoned, was elected to the Philippine Assembly in 1917. Later, he founded his Socialist Party and led peasant protests, using various strategies, from peaceful sit-ins to strikes and destruction of crops.

Fellow landlords vilified Don Pedro "Perico" Abad Santos as a traitor to his class.

The first labor union organized during the American era was the Union de Litografos de Impresores de Filipinas, founded by Isabelo de los Reyes, who was also the founder of the Philippine Independent Church.

The workers' demands included higher wages and education. Strike they did, which landed De los Reyes in jail.

In 1924, a political party of the workers was created, the Partido Obrero de Filipinas. It showed a strong inclination to Marxist philosophy. The organization fathered the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP), which was established in 1930.

Strikes became more frequent and anti-imperialistic. In one incident, more than 10,000 workers marched in Manila, chanting inflammatory slogans and waving red flags. The government declared the PKP illegal in 1932.

Collective protest

Suppression of labor unions and peasant organizations prompted workers to create secret societies. Others took to the hills. When the mass-based Sakdalista Party, critical of the American control of the economy and military bases, campaigned to boycott the Constitution, the colonial government branded the Sakdals as seditious and ordered their arrest.

Some 60,000 Sakdal members took up arms and invaded municipal buildings in Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan and Rizal on May 2, 1935. In ensuing battles, 57 Sakdals were killed.

Through the years, the radicalization of protests provoked military brutality. In the 1960s, the spirit of nationalism animated universities and campuses.

The 1986 "people power" uprising that booted out strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos demonstrated the strength of the collective protest.

Guided and goaded forward by political agitators, protest movements, when ignored by the government, do not fade away. They retreat to gain momentum, threatening to engulf everything in the forward rush to cleanse an unresponsive government.

It's called a revolution.

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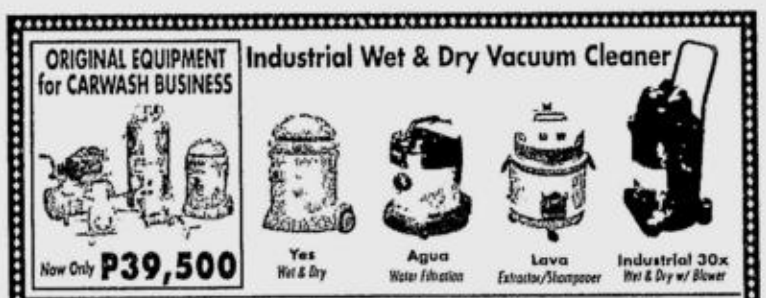
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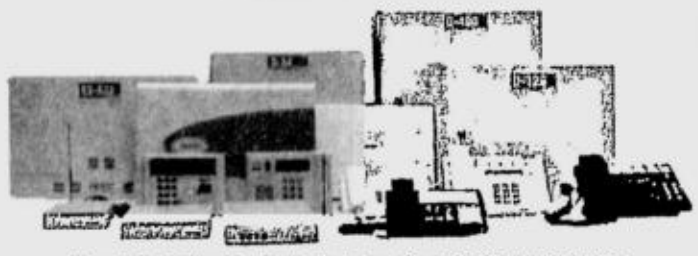
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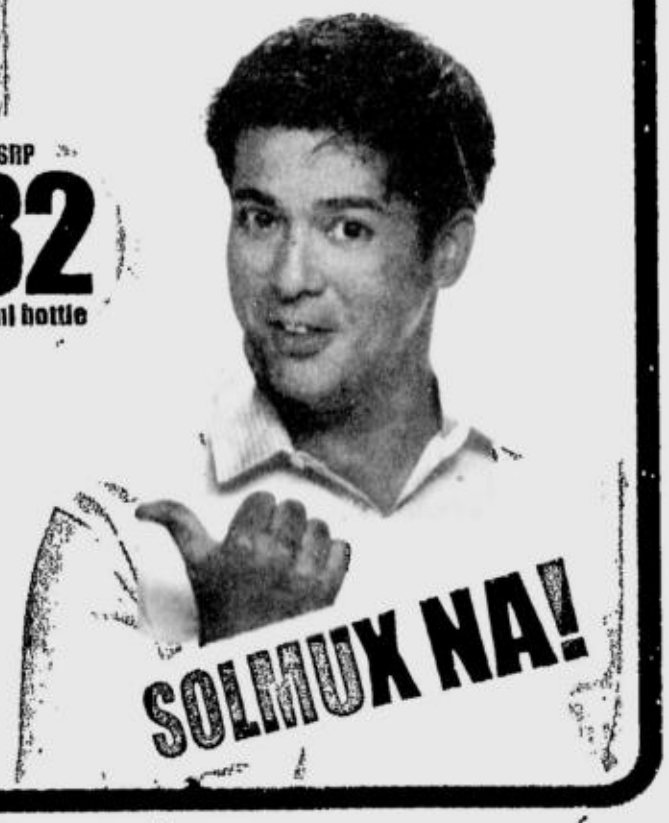

GMA heckler, 13 other protesters detained in Cavite

From page A1

dent Macapagal-Arroyo during graduation ceremonies at the Cavite State University (CavSU) in April, was detained along with youth leader Jonna Landicho.

Twelve other militants were detained later.

Police confiscated banners reading "Huwad na Kalayaan" (Fake Independence) and urging Ms Arroyo's ouster.

Vice President Noli de Castro was delivering a speech at the shrine at around 7:30 a.m. when police grabbed Pangilinan and the others.

"We have prepared our personnel for them. We made sure that the incident in CavSU would not happen during the celebration of Independence Day here," said Senior Insp. Ruben Mojica, the Kawit police chief.

Held for 4 hours

Police freed the activists after four hours.

The others detained belonged to the groups Gabriela, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), Solidarity of Cavite Workers and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

"They were just invited for questioning. The police just prevented them from disrupting a public ceremony," Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, the Cavite police director, said in an interview.

Over a dozen activists were also arrested during last year's celebration.

Heavy security

A total of 350 policemen were deployed to secure Freedom Park and the Aguinaldo Shrine, where the celebrations were held. Army and Navy troops augmented security in the area.

In the April incident, Pangilinan and nine other militants were charged with public scandal for heckling Ms Arroyo.

Pangilinan, a Mass Communication graduate whose parents hawk cotton candy and candles, said she was now working with a nongovernmental organization based in Cavite.

No future

Pangilinan said she and Landicho were walking toward the shrine when police stopped them.

"As long as the fake President remains deaf to the call of the youth and the Filipinos for her to step down, I will not stop joining rallies to call for her ouster," she told the INQUIRER.

"Youths like me have no bright future under her administration."

Landicho, 28, said she would file charges of slight physical injuries and snatching against the policewoman who allegedly took her cellular phone.

Cell phone returned

"What they did to us was a violation of our rights. We were arrested by policewomen who did not even bother to identify themselves," Landicho said.

Her phone was returned to her before her release.

"The police should have let the ralliers say their sentiments. After all, we are celebrating our freedom day," said an ambulant vendor, who saw the incident.

Barangay tanod Fred de Guzman said the protesters should have picked another day for their protest.

"This celebration is a sacred ceremony. Having a rally during the ceremony is like dishonoring our flag," De Guzman said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 13, 2006
10th Week in Ordinary Time
Anthony of Padua

1st Reading: 1 K 17:7-16
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its strength, how can it be made salty again? It has become useless. It can only be thrown away and people will trample on it.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a mountain cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead it is put on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Commentary

Now a widow—not an Israelite, but an outsider—provides for Elijah, and they survive together on what God provides daily for them. She listened to his word, obeyed and trusted. And Jesus proclaims that we are to be salt for the world: taste, curing of food, medicine, essential for life/survival; once a form of currency.

And we are to be light, all of us together shining on a hill, giving direction, vision, hope, guidance, so that in all we do, God is honored and others begin to catch glimpses of our God in our lives.

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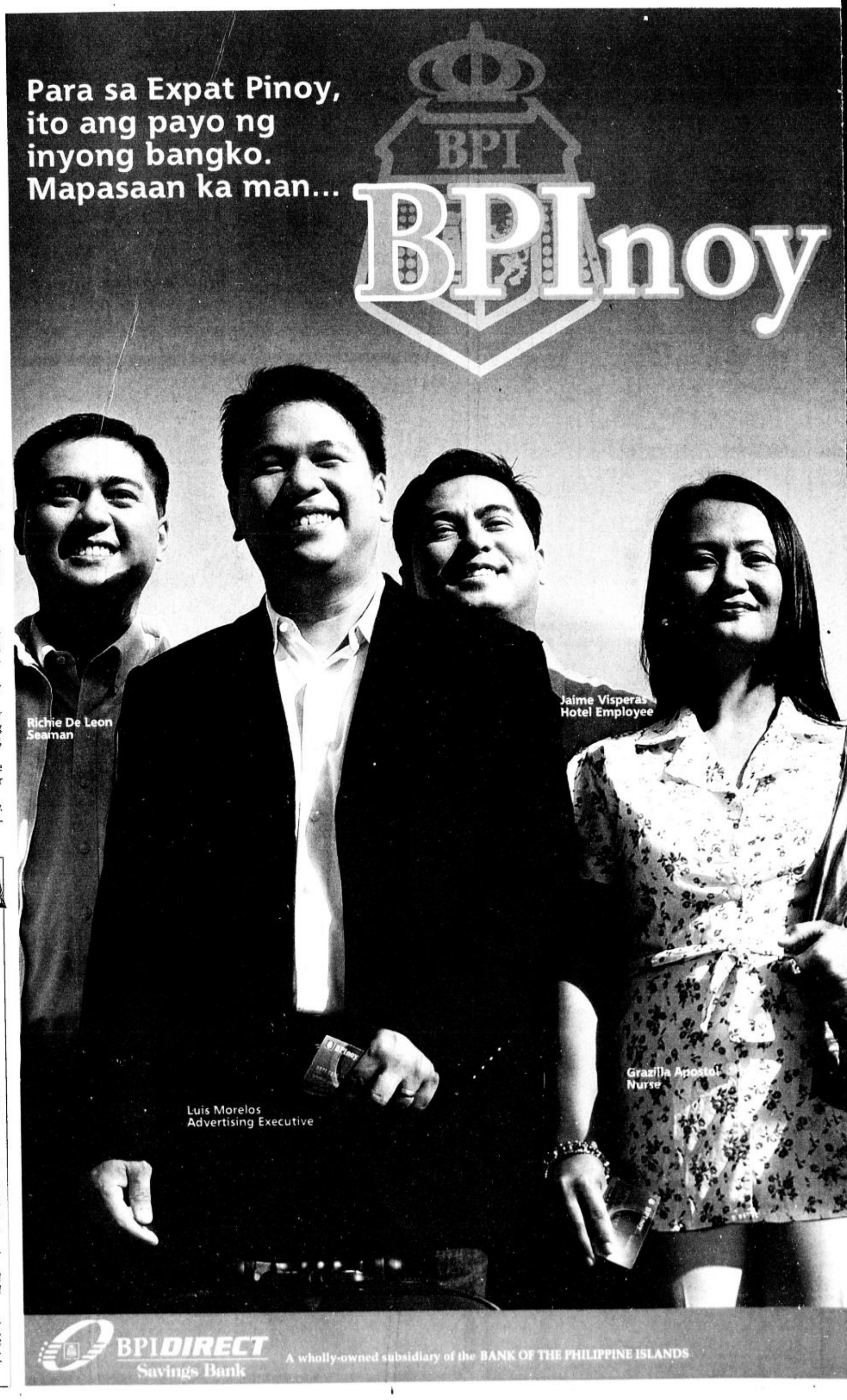
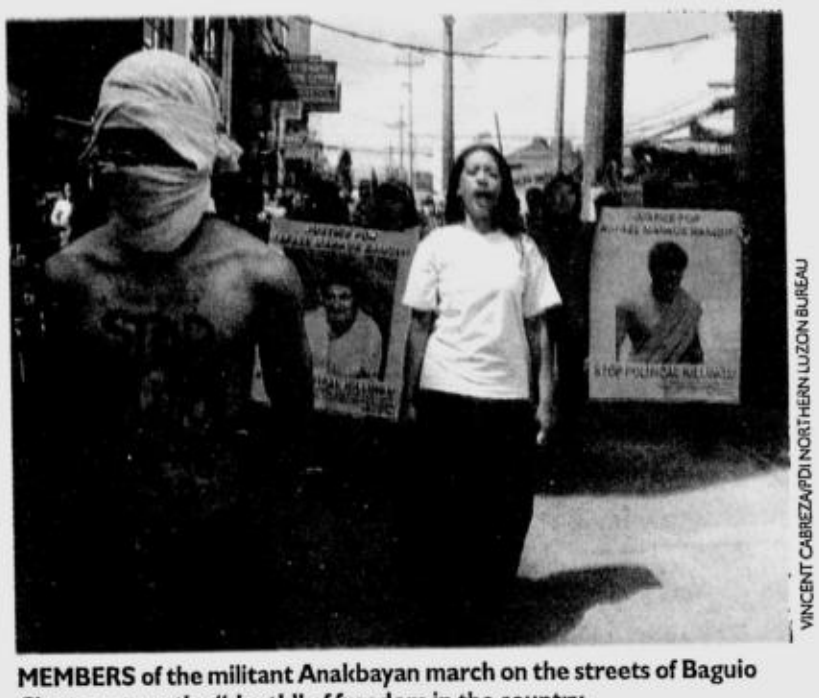
108th Freedom Day celebration

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo raises her wine glass for a toast with Papal Nuncio Archbishop Fernando Feloni during the vin d'honneur in Malacañang. LYN RILLON

VICE President Noli de Castro leads the traditional flag-raising ceremony from the balcony of the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CBCP warns of subtle dictatorship



VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MEMBERS of the militant Anakbayan march on the streets of Baguio City to mourn the "death" of freedom in the country.

From page A1

students who tried to disrupt a flag-raising ceremony at a historic shrine in Kawit, Cavite, led by Vice President Noli de Castro. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"We have freed ourselves from the punishment of the death penalty," Lagdameo said.

"But we still have to free ourselves from drug addiction and drug lords, from jueteng addiction and jueteng lords, from the temptation to extort and to bribe, from exploitation of women and children, from the killings of militants, labor leaders and journalists without the benefit of just trial, from torture and maltreatment of every kind, from graft and corruption and subtle dictatorship."

Lagdameo said Filipinos themselves were enslaving their countrymen. "A painful experience of Filipinos today is that even if we freed ourselves from foreign oppression, there are still Filipinos who enslave their fellow Filipinos."

Lagdameo also called on the people to continue resisting moves to amend the Constitution.

He led 2,500 protesters at the Iloilo Capitol grounds to say "no to Cha-cha (Charter change)."

"My reason for being here is because this is a principled and moral statement," said the prelate.

He said any changes in the Constitution should be implemented through a constitutional convention whose delegates are elected by the people.

"We are not against Charter change per se, but we are against Charter change by the present Congress converting itself into a constituent assembly. From history we learn that dictators are products of and supported by parliamentary forms of government," said Lagdameo.

He reiterated the CBCP position that the reform and modernization of the electoral process should be continued and that the 2007 elections should be held.

But Lagdameo said he was not sure if the protest rally would convince Cha-cha supporters to back down.

"We can go on expressing our (sentiments). We are not alone. This is not the only time that (religious groups) have held similar activities," he told reporters.

Prayer rally in Manila

At the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, religious leaders and members of militant groups gathered yesterday afternoon to hold a prayer rally against Cha-cha and denounce the killings of administration critics.

Marching from the Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City and passing through Quezon Bridge in Quiapo, some 5,000 members of militant groups such as Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bayan and Bayan Muna reached Liwasang Bonifacio at around 4 p.m.

The protest march was "peaceful and orderly."

A phalanx of policemen initially blocked the demonstrators at Nicanor Reyes (Morayta) Street at around 3:30 p.m. but they were eventually allowed to proceed.

Ronalyn Olea, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) information officer, said the police officials in the area allowed the demonstrators to pass since they were able to obtain a permit from Manila City Hall.

The program, titled "Inter-faith Worship Celebration for the Filipino Nation" was attended by party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna and former Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

National artist

Three days after receiving his award as a National Artist for Literature, Bienvenido Lumbera accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of trampling on the country's freedoms by pushing for Charter change.

The move to revise the Constitution "will trample on our hard-won freedoms, our national patrimony and sovereignty and will strengthen the rule of the few in our society," Lumbera said at the rally.

"Ms Arroyo's [Charter change] is the exact opposite of what our forefathers stood for when they fought for Philippine independence more than a century ago," said Lumbera, who was conferred the title of National Artist by Ms Arroyo on Friday, along with six other artists.

Freedom from Ms Arroyo

In a short homily, Bishop Teodoro Bacani said that while the Philippines may have achieved independence from foreign invaders and the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, it had yet to achieve freedom from Ms Arroyo.

"The administration has abolished death sentences but not the death squad," Bacani said. "They say the Filipino people are free but in the event that they speak against the government, we do not know if they would still be free the next day."

Bishop Eleazar Pascua of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) said that 18 church people had been assassinated since 2004.

Fifteen of the victims were UCCP members, Pascua said. "The present administration has failed to stop these senseless deaths."

For his part, Bishop Alberto Ramiento of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente said Cha-cha would not be beneficial to the Filipino people.

"We do not believe that the administration would implement a good parliamentary form of government," Ramiento said. "They would only use it to prolong the stay of those in power."

About 3,000 protesters denounced the killings and Cha-cha in a rally in Caloocan City.

Wilson Fortaleza of Laban ng Masa said the killings, the prevailing poverty and the "suppression of truth...are testament that there is no real freedom today."

For his part, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban told a separate Independence Day celebration: "Liberty from political persecution would not be good if there is poverty."

In Bacolod City, Bishop Vicente Navarra led some 10,000 people in a rally against Cha-cha, which he called the "Christian fight for freedom."

Only about 8,000 took part in the rally, according to the police, but Fr. Anecito Buenafe, Social Action Center director of the Diocese of Bacolod, said there were 20,000 participants.

About 300 members of Bayan Muna and its affiliates in Cebu also staged a rally, not to oppose Cha-cha but to call on the government to act on the killings of activists and journalists.

"We are arousing patriotism in our countrymen and saying it is about time we put up a united stand against people who want to encroach on our Constitution and eventually on our freedom," Navarra said. *Reports from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, Jolene R. Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Christian V. Esguerra, Margaux Ortiz, Tina G. Santos and Nancy Carvajal in Manila; INQ7.net*

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Ang Bangko ng Expat Pinoy

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642

Vol. 21 No. 185

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

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The Senate

EDITORIAL

THE FAILURE OF CONGRESS TO PASS THE national budget for 2006 has again triggered calls for the abolition of the Senate and a change to a unicameral legislature. Unicameralists say that a one-chamber legislature will put an end to political turmoil, increase efficiency, speed up the legislative process and ultimately benefit the people.

We believe—especially at this time when there is a growing tendency toward authoritarianism—a vigilant Senate can serve as an effective check on the Executive. The nation has seen how a politically smart President can bend the House of Representatives to her will—to kill an impeachment move, or make it pass a general appropriation bill that promotes their selfish political interests. Without a Senate, what will serve as a check on an Executive-House combine?

A bicameral legislature is more representative of the multiplicity of interests in a diverse, ethnically fragmented and geographically dispersed nation like ours. A bicameral legislature increases the probability of direct contract between the legislators and their constituents. The congressmen, elected by district, represent smaller, more cohesive constituencies; the senators, elected at large, represent the entire nation.

The double representation of citizens in a bicameral Congress promotes a balanced representation of conflicting interests. Two chambers with different membership, terms of office, leadership and perspectives make possible a diversity of outlooks and points of view on legislative work and decisions.

A bicameral legislature is more stable in membership and more temperate in thought and action than a unicameral one. Young, more impulsive congressmen who are answerable to smaller constituencies respond more quickly to changing popular sentiment; the generally more mature senators, answerable to the nation at large, bring a long-term, wider view to legislative decisions.

A bicameral Congress—because it has more members, leaders and committees—possesses more capacity and expertise. Contention and debate between the two chambers may reflect more effectively the views and desires of the people.

A second chamber restrains and limits the power of legislators. The bicameral system disperses power among the members of Congress constitutionally, rather than relying on the members themselves to limit the power of their leaders.

A bicameral legislature produces quality legislation because it holds more hearings before more people, slows down the decision-making process (haste usually results in half-baked measures), and offers more opportunities for debate, reflection and a more deliberate second thought. Every measure is discussed and approved by two separate groups of legislators with different views and insights.

Conference committees in a bicameral Congress often improve a measure by forcing legislators to listen to their critics, restudy their positions and consider striking a compromise before its final passage. Of course, sometimes irregularities occur in conference committee meetings, but these can be lessened if citizens will demand the utmost transparency from their lawmakers.

The Senate, an assembly of elders (*senex* is Latin for "old"), originated in ancient Rome and was a source of strength and stability of the great Roman Empire. This concept of a chamber of elder legislators was adopted by the United States, and from there it was transplanted to the Philippines which experimented with the unicameral system before settling on a bicameral legislature.

The Senate of the Philippines has had a rich and glorious history. Until the imposition of martial law, it was an assembly of outstanding parliamentarians, lawyers, economists, foreign policy experts, educators and other professionals of the land. It was where great men like Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada, Jose W. Diokno, Lorenzo Sumulong and Joyito Salonga flourished. It was the training ground of presidents, and it actually produced Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña Sr., Manuel Roxas, Elpidio Quirino, Carlos P. Garcia and Ferdinand Marcos. It was only recently, with the advent of "show- biz" politics, that its membership was diluted with movie actors, comedians and athletes.

Do away with the Senate and the bicameral system? We don't think it's a good idea. Especially at this time; a unicameral legislature that will serve as the rubber stamp of a politically smart and assertive President will not do the nation much good. It needs a strong, independent-minded Senate to serve as a check on a compliant House and an authoritarian President.

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'Drip, trickle and splash'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THAT'S THE TITLE OF A REPORT ON AN irreplaceable resource: water. We're "stretching our supplies to the breaking point," the report, which was prepared by the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, warns.

Water underpins the debate over the La Mesa watershed, the Angat dam, and the polluted wells in Maguindanao. "(It) has become a critically constrained resource...particularly in areas around Manila and Cebu, threatening socio-economic development," a World Bank study observes.

Seven other cities—namely, Davao, Baguio, Angeles, Bacolod, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro—were listed as "water-critical areas" in an earlier Japan International Cooperation Agency study.

In 29 provinces, over a quarter of people are denied safe potable water, the UN's Philippine Human Development Report 2005 notes. These provinces are: Apayao, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Capiz, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, Ilocos Norte, Kalinga, Guimaras, Zamboanga del Norte, Bohol, Quezon, Masbate, Occidental and Oriental Misamis, Camarines Norte, Agusan del Sur, Leyte, Negros Oriental and Occidental—plus the entire Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

In contrast, almost all residents of Pampanga, Laguna, Bataan, Abra, Isabela and Catanduanes, can tap into safe water—showing what is possible.

There's no substitute for water. The body needs a minimum of three liters a day to get by. We drink or we die.

Industry and municipal use accounts for a liter and a half out of every 10 liters pumped up. Seven is funneled into irrigation, mostly for food production. Central Luzon, for example, produces a fifth of the country's total farm harvests, INQUIRER reports. But that would be crippled if, as trends signal, water demand would double over the region's limited potential supply of only 12.5 million cubic meters. Irrigation cutbacks would affect harvests—and send politically volatile rice prices soaring.

More people today drink from the well. There were 36.6 million Filipinos in 1970. Today, the population may have crested at 85 million plus. Migrants trekking into urban centers, like Manila, Cebu or Davao, jack up the pressure.

However, the myth of "water abundance" persists. But we really have little water to spare. Each Filipino has 4,476 liters of "internal renewable water resources," World Water Resources estimates. Malaysians have 21,259 liters each. Meanwhile, scarcities are spreading, seen in water queues and drops in water levels. River deltas and coastal estuaries are losing their capacity to support fisheries because of the diminished flow of fresh water and nutrients to the sea.

There's a disconnect between our daily lives and water's life-sustaining role, the book "Last Oasis" notes. For many, "water simply flows from a faucet. We think little of it beyond this immediate point of contact."

"Dig the well before you become thirsty," the old Chinese proverb says. Crafting water policy requires foresight. In the 1960s, Gov. Sergio Osmeña proposed a high dam that Cebu would need 50 years down the road. But he was then an emerging presidential contender. In Malacañang, his rival, Ferdinand Marcos, stomped on the proposal.

Both are now in their graves. But "the evil that men do lives after them." Marcos' decision, about half a century ago, hobbles Cebuanos in 2006 with growing water deficits. The city needs over 275,000 cubic meters daily. But its water firm can produce less than half, and the demand is expected to more than double in 2030.

Additional supplies are not forthcoming soon, thanks to a historical irony. The late governor's son—Mayor Tomas Osmeña—stomped on a 25-year masterplan, carefully crafted by a Netherland-funded outfit based at San Carlos University. With Cebu Gov. Gwendlolyn Garcia, Osmeña tried to gain control of the project. Rebuffed, they rejected the plan, citing unproved issues of accountability. This rejection clamped a premium on paralysis. Paraplegic governance guarantees that today's scarcities in Cebu will be tomorrow's shortages.

So, what is to be done?

Worldwatch Institute recommends: craft policies that (a) conserve and reduce water demand; (b) redistribute available water; (c) seek new sources; and (e) recycle.

"We're quick to assume rights to use water but slow to recognize obligations to protect and preserve it," Sandra Postel writes in "Water Ethics." Singapore, for example, harvests rainfall from over 92 percent of the island. New York City trimmed water use from 195 to 169 gallons a day in an eight-year period. Other measures include: watershed protection to patching leaking pipes.

And no more "freebies" please, Asian Development Bank recommends. Instead, price water at its true cost. This approach curbs waste and dispels a "free lunch" mindset. It spurs citizens to maintain wells built with tax money.

Simple low-cost measures can be adopted from the national down to the barangay level. These include: mandatory cisterns for rainwater, to a list of dos and don'ts to "make every drop count" in homes.

In the future, treated wastewater will be vital for imploding cities. By 2025, Israel expects 80 percent of its agricultural water supply to be recycled water. Marikina is blazing the path here for Philippine cities with its treatment plant.

"Political leaders vastly underestimate the influence of water scarcity on food production, natural systems and stability," Postel notes, then warns, "Some unpleasant surprises may lie in store for them."

Those dry taps signal the advent of "the new politics of scarcity."

'Salamat' Poe

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DISAGREE STRENUOUSLY WITH THOSE who criticize the Poe family for spurning the National Artist Award for Fernando Poe Jr. I disagree even more strenuously with those who lament the injection of "politics" in art, accusing the Poes of the crime.

The people who say those things forget their history, specifically the history of the National Artist Award itself. That Award has been steeped in politics, and I do not mean by that, simply the intramurals that go into its choice of artists. I leave that to the people in the arts to debate, as they have done so furiously over the decades. All awards will always be fraught with politics in that respect. I know because I have been a judge in various writing competitions for many years. Decisions are an engraved invitation to controversy, some more than others.

But far than that, when it first arose, the National Artist Award had both a laudable and un-laudable function. The laudable one was to give artists the importance due them, and not quite incidentally the wherewithal to pursue their Muse without having to worry where the next rent money would come from, a vexation artists are especially prone to.

The un-laudable one was to legitimize an illegitimate government. Though the Award was established months before martial law, in April 1972, it wasn't until May the following year that the CCP Board of Trustees was constituted by a Marcos proclamation and mandated to administer the Award.

The Award wasn't just meant to make the artist look good, an intention writ in elegant language; it was also meant to make martial law look good, a motive left unarticulated but was plain for everyone to see. Certainly, that motive wasn't lost on Nick Joaquin, who was the obvious and unanimous choice for National Artist for Literature from the start. As people would later recall, it was a unique situation where the Award was desperately seeking the awardee and not the awardee the Award. For years, despite the intercession of fellow artists who had joined the regime, Joaquin stood pat on his refusal to accept the Award.

He finally relented in 1976, in an act that gave the public new insights into the meaning of art and life. He agreed to accept the Award on the condition that writer-activist Pete Lacaba was released from Bicutan. Aware of Joaquin's stature and the gaping hole left in the Award by his absence in it, the regime conceded to his demand. Later, at a ceremony in Mt. Makiling that had Imelda Marcos for guest, Joaquin delivered a speech about the inseparable connection between art and freedom. He was never invited to any official function after that. You can't get more political than that. You can't get more artistic than that.

That was pretty much the same situation last Friday. The Defender of the Faith, Mike Defensor, said before the awarding ceremonies that it was unfortunate that the Award should be tainted by politics. He should have told that to his boss. Clearly, as in martial law days, the citing of FPJ as National Artist wasn't just meant to make FPJ look good, it was meant to make GMA look good. It wasn't just meant to recognize FPJ's contributions to film, it was meant to recognize GMA's claim to the presidency. It wasn't just meant to legitimize FPJ as a genuine artist, it was meant to legitimize GMA as a genuine president.

None of this is to say that the others shouldn't also have accepted their awards. Why in hell, or heaven, shouldn't they? The Award also had the completely meritorious function of recognizing their work and reminding this country—especially the "Material Girl" who handed out the awards—that (wo)man does not live by bread alone. All this is merely to say that FPJ's kin had special and compelling reasons to reject it.

At the very least, why should they have agreed to receive the award from the one person who not only robbed the awardee of another award—though a much inferior one compared to being National Artist—which was to be President of the Philippines, but also did her very best to cast doubt on FPJ's nationality? Lest we forget, that was the issue GMA or her minions first raised against FPJ to scare off his possible backers—that he was not a Filipino. Which, as I said then, was monumentally ironic given that, for good or ill, FPJ had helped mightily to define what being Filipino—or at least being a Filipino male—was. He was the quintessential hero a whole generation of Filipinos tried to emulate. For him to have been cast off from his tribe would have voided an entire chapter of Philippine cultural history.

For him now to have been proclaimed National Artist by the one person who sought to becloud his being a national, if not his being an artist, that was *consuelo de bobo* of bubonic proportions, and FPJ's kin are anything but *bobos*, bubonic or otherwise.

At the very most, what is the essence of art really but the true, the good and the beautiful? That phrase, of course, was Imelda's favorite, a thing she raised to a battle cry in her time, which was memorable only for being a satirical commentary on her and her husband's rule. The Poes had every reason to see in it the same ironic commentary on GMA's rule—the proposition that the current occupant of Malacañang had any right to preside over an activity dedicated to the true, the good and the beautiful rubbing salt on their wounds. Truth was the last thing they could possibly associate with her. Goodness, well, Susan Roces did say she had looked into GMA's eyes and found no contrition there. And as to beauty, you could not blame them if they found her very existence an aesthetic assault to body and soul.

I personally would like to thank them for reminding us of some of the things that matter in life, love and art. *Salamat* Poe.

Capital punishment twice killed

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MUCH ADO IS BEING MADE OF THE CHECK-and-balance function of the Senate in our bicameral legislature. Yesterday's INQUIRER editorial pointed out that the recent failure of Congress to pass the 2006 budget is "not the clearest and best argument for a unicameral system." (A number of legislators and opinion writers, including this one, have a contrary view.) Instead, the INQUIRER said, it's the clearest and best argument against the unicameral system.

I fail to see the logic there. A unicameral legislature system will have its own check-and-balance system so long as there are legislators who are clear-thinking, independent and patriotic. One does not need to maintain two very expensive chambers that are perpetually locking horns with each other, to have that check and balance. The likes of Joker Arroyo and Aquilino Pimentel in a unicameral Congress will provide the needed check and balance.

* * *

At yesterday's traditional vin d'honneur at Malacañang, ambassadors from the European Union congratulated Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban for his unequivocal stand against death penalty. "We are victorious," was the consensus of the European envoys following the repeal of the death penalty law by Congress last Wednesday. The EU ambassadors have been following this issue assiduously. Last May 30, Panganiban was the keynote speaker at the launching of the 4-volume "Legal Reference on Capital Cases" at the UP by the Free Legal Assistance Group.

In his speech, a full 10 days before Congress' repeal, the Chief Justice repeated the stand he made in three of his 10 books—that the death penalty has no place in a civilized society. Present were the ambassadors from the European Union, Netherlands and Austria. It should also be noted that during the teleconferenced session of the bicameral conference committee on this issue last Wednesday afternoon, the new Papal Nuncio also happened to be making his formal call on Speaker Jose de Venecia. He was prevailed upon by JDV to wait in his office for the fast developments on the abolition bill. The joy that showed on the Nuncio's face as he left the House made people certain that he reported the development posthaste to Pope Benedict XVI.

* * *

Chief Justice Panganiban is being criticized for reopening the Leo Echegaray execution case. He was quoted as saying that the Supreme Court's final decision on Echegaray's execution in February 1997 was a "judicial error." But an associate justice at that time, he concurred with the Court's decision, after all. The confusion, I think, arose from the failure to understand the difference between an ordinary resolution and what's called a per curiam decision.

I checked out three of his books—"Battles of the Supreme Court" (1998), "Leadership by Example" (1999), and "Transparency" (2000), which specifically tackled the celebrated case. In those books he explained that in ordinary cases reviewed by the high court, the justices' names appear as concurring or dissenting—at times, with their separate opinions attached. But all decisions on cases involving the imposition of the death penalty or dismissing officials from public office, which are called the "per curiam" decisions, do not carry such differences of opinion. The justices all sign this per curiam decision whether they agree or disagree, so that in the Echegaray case, all 15 appeared to have concurred, though in reality three justices, namely, Panganiban, Reynato Puno and Jose Vitug, disagreed. In his books, Panganiban maintained that Echegaray's case did not fall under "qualified rape" since it was not stated in the complaint or proved in the trial that he was the father of the victim Baby. To him, it was a simple rape case that merited only the penalty of reclusion perpetua and not death.

In per curiam cases, the face of unanimity is presented to protect the ponente. But the Court addresses this difficulty by putting a paragraph at the end of each decision stating that some members of the Court disagree but defer to the majority decision.

* * *

At the Palace, Panganiban was overheard telling the ambassadors that the Philippines holds the distinction of having twice killed the death penalty law. The first time when the 1987 Constitution abolished what the other previous constitutions allowed, "unless for compelling reasons involving heinous crimes, the Congress hereafter provides it." True enough, by 1993 there was a lot of clamor to bring it back to counter the rising criminality, resulting in RA 7659.

As the Chief Justice explained it in his books, according to the Constitution, all death sentences should be automatically reviewed by the high court. But at the valedictory decision that Justice Vitug penned in People vs. Mateo, just before he left the Court in July 2004, he proposed an "intermediary review" of death cases by the Court of Appeals, in order to minimize errors in decisions. After the Mateo decision, more than 200 death penalty cases were affirmed by the Court; but after 2004, it began remanding cases to the CA for intermediate review. Six other executions followed that of Echegaray.

President Estrada declared a moratorium on all executions during the Jubilee Year, and President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has consistently been against capital punishment, continued that policy, giving reprieves to the convicts on Death Row while studying what to do with their cases. By mid-2005, the CA started to send some death penalty affirmations to the high court. The recent abolition by Congress of capital punishment found Death Row still occupied with more than 1,000 convicts. Instead of death, the Court may now only impose reclusion perpetua without the benefit of parole.

Being nationalistic

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE DICTIONARY, THE DEFINITION OF "nationalism" moves quite swiftly from "devotion to one's nation; patriotism" to "excessive, narrow, or jingoistic patriotism; chauvinism."

Perhaps, the wordsmith wanted to make a point about how one's love for country can be distorted in a trice into hatred of other countries, or into racial profiling at home.

Currently, we are witness to an orgy of nationalism among many countries of the world, as the World Cup unfolds in Germany. Nations fortunate enough to have teams participating in the most popular and most anticipated competition in the world (bigger even than the Olympics!) are busy whipping up support for their compatriots and urging them on to glory.

Antics, like painting their faces in their flag or team colors, gathering at public spaces and reveling in collective celebration, illustrate the fans' devotion and enthusiasm. But we also know, from past experience, how quickly such feelings can curdle into hooliganism and mass rage, especially if, in their estimation, their team has been cheated of victory.

The Korean international TV channel Arirang ran a program called "World Cup Ambassadors" with a panel of envoys from countries competing in the World Cup. Though speaking diplomatically and couching their introductions in the most inoffensive terms, it was clear each ambassador was trying to boost his team's image and spirit, even if they were all in faraway Korea, far removed from the games.

Which, perhaps, just goes to show that there's nothing like team spirit and sports competitions to whip up one's nationalism, allowing one to celebrate one's country without fear of offending anyone else.

* * *

WELL, the Philippines is not competing in the World Cup, so there's little chance for us to root for our side. Though that doesn't seem to stop football lovers here from choosing their own loyalties, whether for fellow Asians or teams from poor countries, which make up for their low GNP with high fighting spirit.

But we haven't lacked lately for opportunities in the sporting world to celebrate the Filipino spirit—the SEA Games, Manny Pacquiao's victory in Las Vegas (and more recently, his brother's triumph), even the "conquest" of Mt. Everest, whoever it is you believe made the summit first.

And as stories of Filipino successes in international competitions—from Math Olympiads to beauty contests, science expos to talent shows—prove, our countrymen and countrywomen are doing us proud everywhere and in all fields of endeavor. I'm sure they're not doing this just to give us the chance to beat our breasts and crow about how great it is to be Pinoy. But whatever their motivations, we are grateful just the same for their willingness to let the rest of us bask in reflected glory.

It seems to matter little, either, that our country faces serious problems with little prospect of being solved within the near future.

* * *

TAKE our problems in education. Former Education Undersecretary Mike Luz writes that given our present number of public elementary and high school students, and at the rate we are constructing new rooms, it will take the country 15 years to bridge the existing classroom gap. This assumes, of course, that Filipino couples will stop having sex and stop producing babies in the meantime. But at our present population growth rate, nearly two million babies are born each year, which means that by the time all those missing classrooms have been built, millions more children will be left holding classes under trees or in corridors; or worse, being subjected to double and even triple shifts.

While commentators and officials brought up the population issue from time to time, not one thought to point out that our rapid growth in population is perhaps the biggest reason our educational system is hard put to meet its many challenges. Our schools are, quite literally, getting swamped under the arrival of more and more new entrants. And as observers have said, given our worsening economic conditions, the public school system faces even more problems, what with students forced to transfer from private schools because their parents can no longer afford the expensive tuition.

* * *

MEANTIME, our officials, led by the President, seem to prefer to ignore the population problem altogether. And not just ignore it, but deny it, even. Health Secretary Francisco Duque has admitted that he is under orders to devote the bulk of DOH's budget and programs to the promotion of modern natural family planning. Now, while this is concededly effective, it is difficult to implement, mainly because couples need more time for counseling and training in the method, and also because it is prone to human factors like, well, lust and laziness.

While I might be willing to admit that modern NFP does have a place in a national population policy and program, it's the height of folly to depend on it mainly to lead the way in slowing down the rate of population growth. And the administration drumbeaters claim we'll be able to halve our population growth rate in the next five years? Mainly by pushing NFP? What narcotic are they on?

Contributing its own share of idiocy is the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, which protests against the mention of family planning methods in sex education classes, saying teaching young people about these methods is tantamount to encouraging them to have pre-marital sex. It's quite a leap in logic, and also quite a statement about their low opinion of our young people's intellect and emotional maturity.

Perhaps, a mark of one's nationalism is being able to look our country's problems squarely and admit solutions that, however we might object to them, tell us they are needed if we are to make any headway.

Old Left versus New Left in Latin America

WORLD VIEW

Jorge Castañeda

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO INTERPRET LATIN America's recent election results. First, and most obviously, the supposed turn to the left is running out of steam, fast. In recent weeks, the hyper-nationalist Ollanta Humala, a clone of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, was defeated in Peru; the conservative Alvaro Uribe won a landslide victory in Colombia, with 62 percent of the vote; and Andrés Manuel López Obrador has fallen behind in the poll surveys leading up to Mexico's July 2 presidential election. All of these developments seemingly contradict the leftward trend in Latin America.

But there is another way of looking at these events. Yes, President Uribe won re-election, but the big surprise in Colombia was the end of the two-party system that had dominated the country for decades, and the emergence of the left-wing Polo Democrático as the second largest political force in the nation.

Similarly, while Alan García won in Peru, he does not come from a hard-left party that has finally seen the light (like Lula da Silva in Brazil, Michelle Bachelet in Chile, and Tabaré Vázquez in Uruguay). His APRA party, founded by Victor Raúl Haya de la Torre in the 1920s, is one of the region's oldest and most anachronistic populist organizations.

Like Chávez in Venezuela, Kirchner in Argentina, Evo Morales in Bolivia, and López Obrador in Mexico, President García belongs to the unreconstructed left that springs from the great Latin American populist tradition. He may have learned many lessons from his disastrous presidency in the 1980s, but he is much closer to the wrong left than to the right one. In Mexico, López Obrador has both begun picking up in the polls in recent days and, showing his true colors, has been promising the stars and the moon to the Mexican electorate.

In fact, the more important recent developments within the Latin American left may lie not so much in the horserace results of elections, but in the growing differences between modernists and revanchists, between national interests and ideology. As Morales cozies up to Chávez and Fidel Castro more quickly than most people expected—nationalizing Bolivia's natural gas, inviting large numbers of Cuban doctors and advisers to his country, and signing myriad cooperation agreements with Venezuela—he is also fueling increasing tensions with Brazil and Chile.

Both countries are his neighbors, and in theory at least, their leaders are his ideological soul mates. But the differences between the modern and archaic left, and the three countries' contradictory national interests, seem to be trumping more superficial political affinities.

For example, Saõ Paulo, Brazil's industrial powerhouse, now depends for most of its energy on Bolivian natural gas. As a result, Petrobras, the Brazilian energy company, has invested huge sums in Bolivia, in everything—from exploration to pipelines. Now, with the election of Evo Morales, the main source of Petrobras' natural gas has suddenly been nationalized.

Indeed, domestic royalties on Bolivian gas production are being increased by more than 50 percent, and the price charged to Bolivia's foreign clients may well be doubled. Contracts are being respected only in the breach, and technicians and lawyers from PDVESA, the Venezuelan oil giant, are auditing Petrobras installations in Bolivia. Lula wants to be nice to Morales, but he can't be nice to his expropriating neighbor and at the same time keep the industrialists and consumers of Saõ Paulo happy.

Similar frictions are arising with Chile. President Bachelet would like to solve the century-old problem of landlocked Bolivia's access to the Pacific, but it is finding this task to be trickier than expected, as Morales increases gas prices and reduces gas exports to Argentina, Chile's largest foreign supplier of energy. Neither does Morales' rhetoric help: accusing the United States of attempting to assassinate him, as he did recently, does not endear him to the elites of a country that has signed a free-trade agreement with the United States and whose president will be visiting Washington soon.

At the end of the day, Bolivia's immediate national interests may be served by Morales' strategic alliance with Cuba and Venezuela. On the other hand, Chávez's unabashed meddling in the Peruvian elections may have so alienated Alan García that he actually becomes a European-style social democrat, and López Obrador may deliver on his promises to respect North American Free Trade Agreement, adhere to macro-economic orthodoxy, and pursue good relations with the United States.

But the cleavage between the two lefts in Latin American is steadily deepening. This is inevitable, because that rupture is being fueled by the simple acknowledgement that responsible governments must place national interests ahead of nostalgia, grandstanding rhetoric, and strident ideology.

Project Syndicate

Jorge G. Castañeda, former foreign minister of Mexico (2000-2003), is a Global Distinguished Professor of Politics and Latin American Studies at New York University.

Violin lessons

YOUNG BLOOD

Treble

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

FOR THE MOMENT, I'D CALL MY TEACHER "BASS"—AFTER all, he likes to call himself by that name, although only in secret. I met him one evening in a Christian fellowship outside the old entrance of a dorm in the University of the Philippines.

Having grown up somewhere in the United States, he spoke with an American accent. In this sense, his English was flawless, and I, being an English major, hanged on to every word of his as we talked. I remember asking him, "What is obedience?" Until now, I couldn't remember his answer to that question. I guess forgetting it had a purpose. I had to learn what obedience meant by actually obeying.

Bass was a very talented musician. He played more than 10 instruments, including the different guitars (lead, bass and rhythm), and the various percussions, the cello, the contrabass, the viola and the violin. There were times he even "invented" his own instruments, especially when he was looking for a certain sound which he felt should be used in a particular arrangement. When he applied for work as a music teacher, his interviewer asked him, "What do you not play?" And Bass sheepishly replied, "The piano?" He was made Strings Department Head. But actually, he was "The" Strings Department.

I was not looking for a violin teacher when I met Bass. And I didn't go to the school where he taught music. But learning how to play the violin had been a dream since I was in fourth grade. I don't know why. Perhaps, playing an instrument, which fourth grade kids don't normally want to do, had a certain allure to me. And I had long wanted to enroll in a music school and I had been looking for a teacher.

When I first heard Bass play the violin in church, my heart lit up with hopes. And I told myself, "He is going to be my teacher."

I wasn't prepared for the heartaches that came with learning how to play the violin and for the lessons he gave me.

On one of our early meetings under a shed near my dorm, he asked me, "What do you think is boring?" He had handed me a foreign music magazine while he shaved my violin bridge with a cutter to make it symmetrical. (Not many violinists prefer to shave the bridge this way.)

I told him that sometimes I considered myself boring because I wasn't very interesting to many people.

Then he threw me another question. "What is interesting then?"

I didn't have an answer to that.

Then he told me, "Last night, I had a gig at a bar. After playing, there was this lady wearing a back-less dress who kept on flirting with me. She seemed to think that I was interested in her. But I didn't think she was interesting."

Then he went on, "Our criteria for what is interesting or boring must have stemmed from something not of this world. None of us can concretely explain them. But I think these criteria came from something divine. We have just forgotten all about them and turned to this world which is short-sighted."

I asked him if he had been playing the violin ever since he was a kid. And he told me that he only got to study the instrument when he was about my age, that is, when he was in his third year in college. He told me about that time he was learning and practicing to play his violin—at three in the morning, in the dorm where he stayed. He disturbed his dorm mates, even the guards on duty. Once, a guard shouted out to him to stop playing. And, of course, there were the casual complaints of his three other roommates. He didn't care though. His roommates probably got used to the sounds.

Strangely enough, I am now staying in the dorm where he once stayed. And in the same way that he did in that period of his life, I've annoyed dorm mates with my violin. Some of them have even gone to posting on room doors notes pleading "Please keep quiet. PLEASE!" Of course, I've been disheartened by their reactions—they made me feel as if I sounded like a cow trying its best to sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Unlike Bass, I haven't been strong enough to simply not mind them. I have gotten so affected by them that I stopped practicing regularly, as directed. Instead of playing the violin just for 30 minutes every day, I'd play it two hours straight one day—during hours when my dorm mates were not around—and then skip practice the next day.

I told him about all these, about my embarrassment, my lack of self-confidence, my feeling of being unworthy of the violin, my shame of not being able to play "music." Instead of expressing sympathy and giving me the consoling words I was looking for, he asked me whether or not I really wanted to play the violin. If I did, he went on, I would not mind my dorm mates' reactions, or whatever they thought of my music and practice.

He then told me in a gentle and sad manner, "My high school students in the orchestra don't have much choice. Either they do what I tell them to do or I flunk them. They don't have much time either to think about their "unworthiness" or whatsoever to play music. They know what they need to do and they do it. If I tell them to practice 30 minutes every day, they practice 30 minutes every day, instead of two hours one day and no practice the next day."

In this strangely gentle but firm manner, he made me think a lot. In essence, I wasn't just getting practical tips on how to play the violin or how to choose the right string. I was practically getting more than what I was paying him to teach me: lessons about life.

In one summer session, Bass told me that it was his passion to teach. And if he could teach music, that would simply be grand. But he also told me that teaching usually made you go hungry; it made you want to have a nicer cell phone or to rent an apartment with air-conditioning. Becoming a teacher usually meant becoming an underpaid worker.

Recently, he was offered a job: as a regular member of an upcoming band. He would perform all the strings in the band's album. He was in a dilemma. He said becoming a member of the band would allow him to enjoy more perks and, perhaps, also to fulfill his dream of meeting Barbie. But not to teach would kill his soul.

Because of what he said, I told him, "Bass, I want to become a teacher just like you." And he gave me that sad smile that he usually wore when he was giving me hard-hitting lessons. He said, "To be able to do that, you need to do well on the violin."

Treble, 18, is an incoming third year college BA Comparative Literature student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She says she is now teaching someone to play the violin

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Useless talk about growth, empowerment

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

AS A FOREIGNER LIVING IN THE Philippines since December 2001, I am generally disgusted and outraged by the ongoing wholesale slaughter of leftists and journalists. The slaughter is reaching new lows in government depravity.

What's most nauseating is the way politicians and government agencies that are tasked with upholding and delivering justice respond to the bloody carnage. They seem so pathetically ineffective—unwilling?—or blatantly indifferent. Surely, enough is enough!

Come on! Is "Pinoy pride" just empty rhetoric? Where's the sense of gut-wrenching shame? Are Filipinos no longer allowed to hold and voice opinions that differ from the views of the corrupt people in power? So, is this "democracy," Marcos-GMA style? Are Filipinos content to live with it? Will all the murderers be caught and brought to justice? Will any of the victims' families find closure and peace?

I would like to commend the INQUIRER in the way it has intrepidly covered these harrowing human tragedies. These are unpleasant but critical life-and-death issues that we must keep on painfully rubbing on our faces. Without human rights, any talk of "development," "empowerment" and "progress" in any country will amount to nothing. New glitzy malls and the conquest of Mount Everest will just be momentary media distractions.

—ANDY M. R. MCKENZIE,
andyzie@yahoo.com.au

A SCENE in a public school on the first day of classes: Too many students or too few classrooms?

Nursing should not be equated with the acquisition of wealth

I ADMIRE PHILINNE FLORANNE GARcia's "$300,000, anyone?" (PDI, 5/25/06) for her love and passion for the nursing profession. But nursing, like medicine and the teaching profession, is a noble calling. It should never be equated with wealth acquisition.

With the many risks that come with the nursing profession (physical, health, psychological, including workplace issues, such as racism faced by non-whites and minorities in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and other industrialized nations), it is sad that parents ask their children, particularly daughters, to take up nursing to help the family escape from poverty. With its inherent risks, nursing actually pays a lower salary rate compared with other much safer health professions like pharmacy.

Like any other profession, the salary rate for nurses in North America depends on years of experience, area of expertise, and place of assignment. Geographically, the average salaries varies but, on average, the starting rate for new, inexperienced nurses is around $19-22/hour. The average annual salary for full-time RNs are $46,782; staff RNs, $42,133; RNs with master's, $61,262; Ph.D. RNs, $63,522; nurse practitioners, $60,126; and clinical nurse specialists, $50,800. Certified nurse anaesthetics (CRNAs) have the highest earning average—$93,787 annually, but nowhere near $300,000.

For a nurse to reach $50/hour, she must have acquired years of work experience, including, perhaps, a higher nursing education or specialization. Without any of those, I cannot see a nurse earning $300,000, even if he or she has more than one job.

How many single Filipina nurses wishing to start a family do not marry because of the nagging question: Does my fiancé really love me or is it just my citizenship? How many of them continue to support their parents or their siblings, and even their nieces and nephews through college? And when these dependents fail to complete their education, despite the financial assistance, how the cycle of dependency continues, even as the dependent's lifestyles are more extravagant than that of the nurses'? Or haven't we heard in jest (but with a hint of truth) that incoming overseas calls normally bring about some anxiety because they're almost always about money and/or how money sent is never enough.

I wish Philline the best; I wish that as she matures, her enthusiasm and love for nursing will not wane. And I hope that whatever the challenges that lie ahead—be it personal or in the workplace—they will not turn her into a jaded woman but instead reinforce her belief that she had made the right choice thus making her a more fulfilled and complete person.

—AIMEE GONZALES,
nurse practitioner, Toronto, Canada,
aimee_alg@yahoo.ca

No complaints against Legacy

IN OUR PAID ADVERTISEMENT PUBlished in the June 1 issue of the INQUIRER, there appeared this line: "1. Must be a victim of a pre-need educational company (Pacific Traditional Education Plan, CAP, Platinum, TPG, Capitol, Legacy).

Please be advised that the inclusion of the name Legacy was a mistake. Our records show that, to date, we have not received any complaint from any of its planholders. Therefore, Legacy should not have been included in the list.

—PHILLIP PICCIO,
president, PEP COALITION

Executive Order 314 and bad examples

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo issued Executive Order No. 314 creating the Presidential Commission on Values Formation, many teachers thought that, at last, the government was complementing their efforts to teach values—good manners and right conduct, or character education, if you will—to their schoolchildren.

But two recent acts of the government dashed this teacher's expectations. Unlike Cristina "Tinay" del Rosario Bugayong, a 12-year-old pupil of Tomas Morato Elementary School in Quezon City who set an example of honesty by returning the P300,000 worth of cash and checks she found to the rightful owner, this administration is leading by bad examples.

The latest among these bad examples was Ms Arroyo's attempt to hide the truth about the problem of classroom shortage in public schools. Refuting the report of acting Education Secretary Fe A. Hidalgo, she said that there is no such shortage as it had been agreed in the previous year that each classroom should be made to accommodate 100 students. Why is the President afraid to accept the truth?

Another instance which showed this administration's disregard of honesty and morality was the Presidential Commission on Good Government's move to enter into a deal with the Marcoses on their ill-gotten wealth.

No less than the principled and brilliant vanguard of morality in public service, former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga, has called on the Arroyo administration to step back from this immoral compromise for it will make the Philippines "the most notoriously corrupt among Asian nations and a pariah to the whole international community."

Such acts send the wrong message to our children and youth. PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede's argument is flawed and immoral. When he said it would "help pump badly needed funds into government coffers," he justified that public officials can steal from government coffers provided they return a part of their ill-gotten wealth. And worst of all, if such a compromise pushes through, it will tell and teach people, especially the youth, that crime does pay—and it pays handsomely.

In the light of these dishonest and immoral examples set by this administration, we urge all well-meaning and concerned sectors to rally behind former Senator Salonga and Secretary Hidalgo. They are telling the truth and they espouse morality. We have to support them. They deserve no less.

—EUSEBIO S. SAN DIEGO,
founding president,
Teachers Alliance against Graft and Corruption (TAGAC), 22 Antonia St., Centerville, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

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Supporting scholars in honor of parents and alma mater

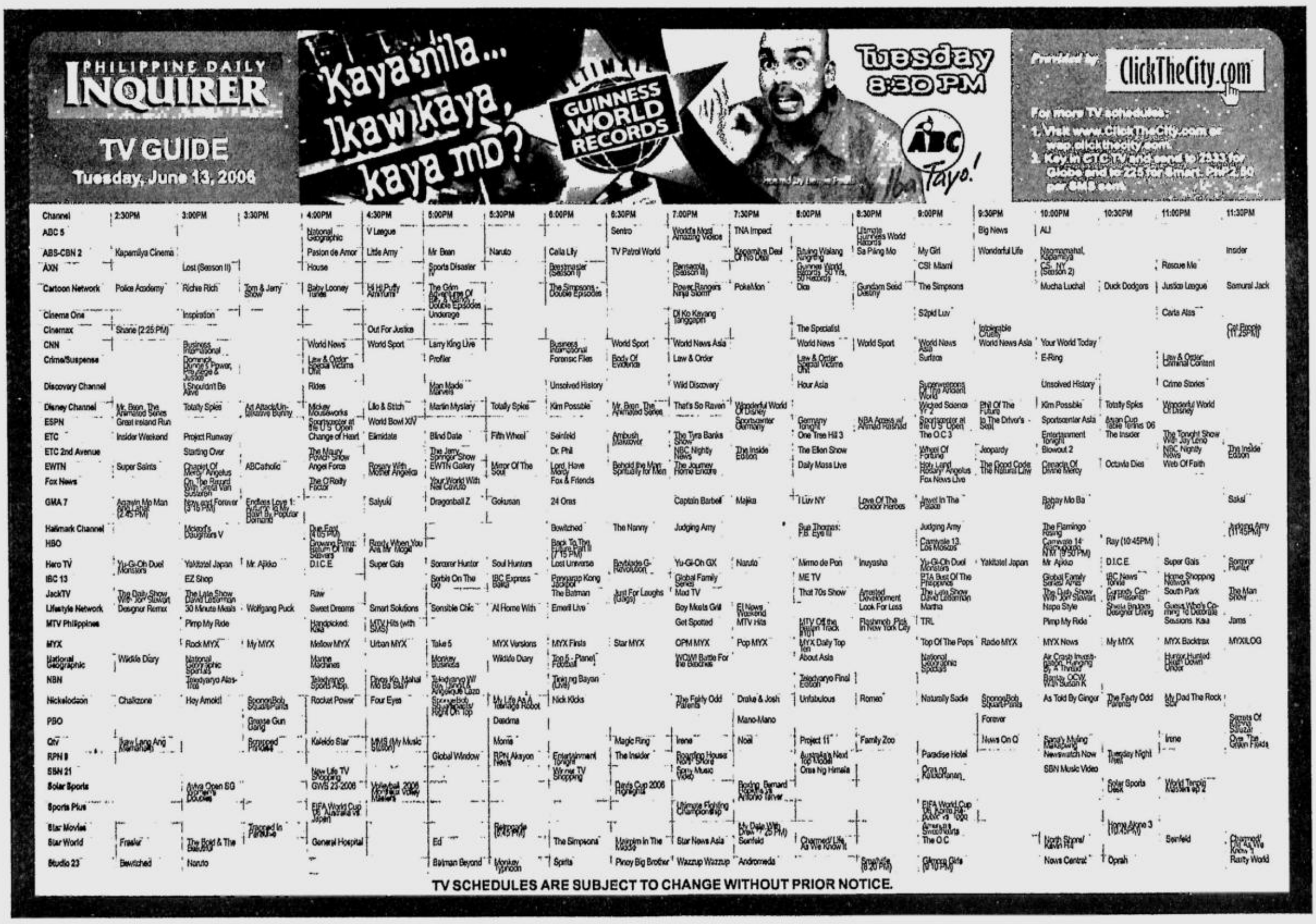
I READ MICHAEL TAN'S COLUMN ON "Scholars" (PDI, 5/24/06) with great interest. You see, supporting as many scholars as I can is one of my "things to do" in life.

Some years ago, a friend who was teaching at the West Visayas State University suggested the idea of supporting nursing students there. Sadly, nothing has happened yet because she had to go to Japan to study.

I have been working for almost seven years now but I have not sent anyone to school. This far, I have been limited to giving a small amount to Unicef. My dream, really, is to do as Tan suggested—to help the country by supporting our students.

I just want to let Tan know that I hear his message and I will never forget it. I am privileged to be where I am, for which I am very grateful. I am going abroad for further studies. When I am gainfully employed again (after my MBA), supporting scholars will be my first priority. This I will do to honor my parents (for working hard to send me to school) and my alma mater, Ateneo, for teaching me about life and reminding me what my life is all about.

—JEWELLYN DIZON,
jeng_dizon@yahoo.com
Kingswood Condominium,
Makati City



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PNP tolerance tied to 'jueteng' return

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—GAMBLING lords and their protectors are wasting no time intensifying their operations in Cagayan Valley, taking advantage of the scheduled retirement of Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, on July 5, police sources here said on Monday.

"This is a good time for (operators) to continue with their operations because they are confident (Lomibao) will mellow down now that it's just weeks before he retires," said a police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jueteng activities resumed in this province on Sunday, with bet collectors claiming they had been assured by financiers of protection from arrest due to the supposed tolerance of the local police.

"We just got the notice that we were supposed to resume our work on Sunday and that everything would be okay (with the police). So here we are, we're back in business," said a bet collector, who was seen doing the rounds in Barangay District IV here on Monday.

The source said policemen were already resigned to widespread public perception that every time jueteng operated in an area, government and police officials agreed to allow it.

"Many of them are already lazy to make arrests because they suspect that when a crackdown has been ordered, it is either for publicity or just for a show," the police officer said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley police director, for comment.

Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo, Nueva Vizcaya police director, said the renewed jueteng activities might have been the work of enterprising bet collectors.

He said it's the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group that has the task of arresting jueteng syndicate members.

"What we do is only to support," he said.

In Isabela, officials assailed the supposed inaction of Lomibao on their request to sanction police officials, who, they believed, had allowed the return of jueteng there.

Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca said she now doubted whether Lomibao was sincere in carrying out the government's campaign against illegal gambling.

"Now that (jueteng is) back, I really am beginning to have serious doubts on General Lomibao's sincerity to stop jueteng," Padaca said in a statement.

Jueteng resumed in Isabela on April 28. Its operations have intensified since.

Padaca said she was disgusted that Lomibao's one-strike policy on erring police officials was not applied despite the continued operations of illegal gambling in various towns and cities in the province. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MISSION FUN

ZONITO TORREVILLAS/CONTRIBUTOR

A boy excited to get free circumcision is carried to an operating table by Tony Golez, deputy administrator and spokesman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council. At least 43 volunteer doctors and dentists, under the 3rd Technical Service Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command, is currently giving free medical and dental services for three days in Tawi-Tawi.

100 WW2 bombs found in Talisay mountain

BACOLOD CITY—MORE THAN 100 World War II vintage bombs have been found inside a cave in Mt. Mandalagan, Barangay Katilingan, Talisay City, about 7 km north of this city.

The bombs were discovered by residents last week, as heavy rains might have washed out the soil that covered the bombs, said Talisay Mayor Eric Saratan yesterday.

The residents believe the bombs were kept at the foot of Mt. Mandalagan during the Second World War, said the mayor.

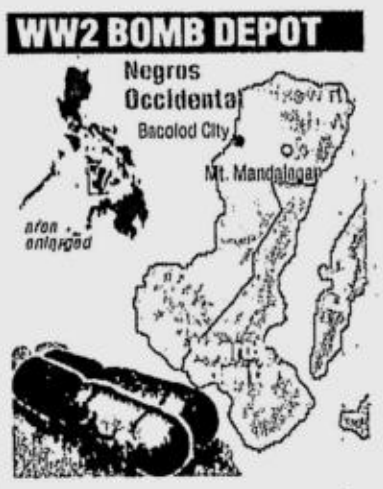
Bacolod police bomb expert Demy Montoya said he was to go to the site on Tuesday to study how to dispose of the bombs, estimated by some residents to number about 130, Saratan said.

He said residents of the area discovered the bombs and reported them to him.

One of the bombs the residents brought to him was as big as a beer bottle, rusty and with a firing pin, he said.

Saratan said he had advised residents not to touch the bombs because they were dangerous.

Senior Supt. Charles Calima, Negros Occidental police provincial chief, said he instructed Chief Insp. Jerry Bartolome, Talisay police director, to ensure that residents did not move the bombs to prevent a possible explosion.



Calima said the bomb depot may have belonged to the Japanese or American forces.

He said that during World War II, the Japanese Army had an airport in Barangay Bagtic, Silay City, which was adjacent to Talisay.

A team will be sent to the area to dispose of the bombs there. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Floods feared as town river dredging stopped

THE RECENT DECISION BY THE provincial government of Bataan to stop the dredging of heavily silted rivers in Dinalupihan town would result in massive flooding in 18 densely populated communities in the town, a town official said.

Vice Mayor Leonardo Cruz, in a press statement, said that based on a study conducted by the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council (MDCC), low-lying villages in the town would be submerged during heavy rains as the heavily silted rivers are very likely to overflow.

The Bataan provincial government stopped the de-silting operations after the temporary permit issued to local contractors expired last month.

Cruz said that the provincial government's latest move to stop the dredging operations could be linked to the ongoing conflict between Gov. Enrique Garcia and the Japanese contractor in charge of the Bataan segment of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP) currently being implemented by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

Cruz said stopping the dredging and de-silting operations also derailed the flood control programs of the villages and could delay the expressway project.

"It's a double setback altogether. The hauling operations of silted rivers have been helping us to control flooding and at the same time provide the source of filling materials for the SCTEP road project being supplied by local traders," Cruz said.

"The benefits derived from these de-silting activities far outweigh the political and propaganda gains of our provincial leaders."

Scholarships too few, says CHEd official

BAGUIO CITY—SCHOOL SCHOLarships have dwindled to a handful and are not enough to solve the tuition crisis generated by ailing pre-need firms, education officials here said.

Although students, who rely on pre-need subscriptions to enroll, do not dominate the number of students returning to colleges this school year, they now seek alternative resources like corporate donors or philanthropic institutions to continue their studies, said Virginia Akiate, chief education specialist of the Commission on Higher Education in Cordillera.

The collapse of some pre-need firms left the industry with no available safety net, said Angelita Padilla, senior vice president of the University of the Cordilleras.

Local colleges this year have turned away students, whose tuition and other school fees are guaranteed by pre-need firms, largely due to the bad publicity on these firms, she said.

These students will end up competing with many more youths for scholarships and grants subsidized by the colleges that have slots for only a couple of them, she said.

But Padilla said local universities would again step up solicitations for donors to help them reactivate privately funded scholarships.

Akiate noted an increase in college student enrollment for regional universities. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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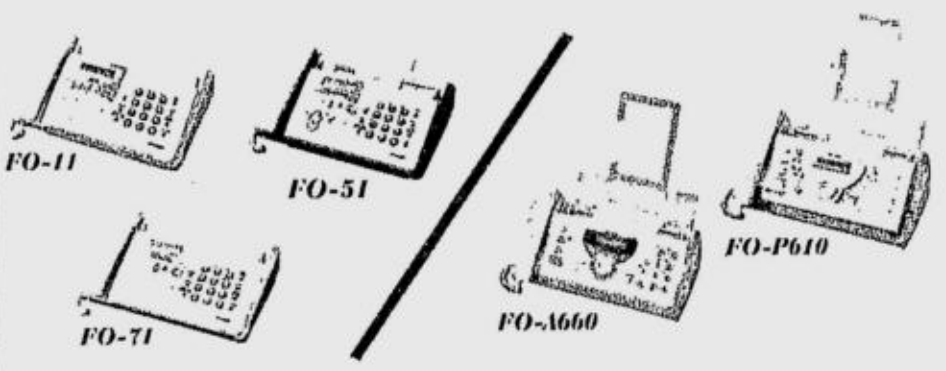

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The POWER behind the PHILIPPINE Flag unfolds...

by GRACE GALINDEZ-GUPANA
PG Tower Ministries Int'l. Philippines

On April 22, 2006, over 3,000 people representing 103 nations marched 2.2 miles from Bonnie Brae Street in Los Angeles (LA), California to Noguchi Plaza, as part of the pre-celebration of the Azusa Street Revival Centennial (ASRC), April 24-29 which drew more than 30,000 delegates. Azusa was an old street in LA where the world's greatest spiritual revival exploded in April 1906 and has resulted into a massive spiritual army of 600 million worldwide.

As the participants marched, they cheered and sang praises to God. Majority waved specially-made, colorful banners which Filipino and Israeli participants immediately recognized because it is a unique combination of the Philippine and Israel flags.

Called *Hallelujah banners*, they were given away to ASRC delegates by PG Tower Ministries Int'l through an amazing work of the Lord. PG is led by Ms. Grace Galindez-Gupana, President.

On November 28, 2005 at the **Prayer for the Nation** gathering in the Folk Arts Theater, Ms. Gupana, together with Bishop Efraim Tendero (Nat'l Director of PCEC) and Rev. Gammy Alba also **had the opportunity to give and personally explain to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo a Hallelujah banner.**

Hallelujah banners were first raised at the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) and the celebration of Jesus Christ' birth (in the Jewish calendar) in Jerusalem, October 17, 2005. Seven PG Tower Intercessors, attended together with Mrs. Gupana who represented the Philippines by raising banners at the assembly. She had also the opportunity to hand over a **Hallelujah banner to the Minister of Tourism of Israel, represented by Mr. Raphael Ben-Hur, Senior Deputy General, Ministry of Tourism who accepted it with tears and joy.**

Ms. Gupana raises the Hallelujah banner at the Festival of Praise, Folk Arts Theater, Nov. 28, 2005. She explained and gave a banner to Pres. GMA, at the National Day of Prayer.

Hallelujah is the Hebrew word for "praise God." A combination of the Philippine and Israel flags can signify the coming together of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ and the Old Covenant.

Ms. Gupana said that the Hallelujah banner can also symbolize the commitment of Filipino Christians to stand with Israel and pray for its peace according to Psalm 122:6, that promises prosperity to those who pray and love Jerusalem.

On August 31, 2005, the Spirit of God led two pastors and 24 Prayer Intercessors under the leadership of Ms. Gupana to fast and pray for 7 days at the PG Tower 115 Malakas St., Diliman, Quezon City. The **focus was on the Philippines and leaders of the land.** During that time, some intercessors saw in a vision the flags of the Philippines and Israel come together as one. **Then the Word of God** in Isaiah 66:13 came: "As a mother comforts her child so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem...." It was as if a mother, (personified as Israel,) is adopting the daughter, the Philippines.

Pres. Arroyo is being prayed for by Christian leaders at the National Day of Prayer, Folk Arts Theater on Nov. 28, 2005. (R-L: Bishop Ef Tendero, a Malacañang Officer, Ms. Grace Gupana, GMA, Isabel Tobias, Malacañang Secretary of Church Relations.

FILIPINOS raise Hallelujah banners at the Azusa Centennial **"Holy Spirit Processional," Los Angeles.** Photo shows Ms. Grace, Paula, Paulene and Ruth Gupana with Maru and Kutch Javier and Rev. Jaren Lapasaran, and other *kababayans.*

Thus, the Hallelujah banner was born - it was in the light of the Bible and the leading of the Spirit.

After the prayer and fasting, the PG Tower Ministries started to make banners as the Spirit led.

Hallelujah banners have been raised at other Christian events including the Franklin Graham Metro Manila Festival in February 2006.

To date almost 50,000 Hallelujah banners have been distributed worldwide.

1898: The Meaning of the Philippine Flag

The Flag's design spoke of the Filipinos' spirit and their deep yearnings for the country. A white triangle on the flag stood for equality; the upper stripe of dark blue for peace, truth and justice, the lower stripe of red for patriotism and valor, the sunburst of eight rays representing the first eight provinces that took up arms against Spain and the three stars symbolizing Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

2005: The Spiritual Meaning of the Philippine Flag

Revealed to 24 Prayer Intercessors and 2 Pastors at the PG Tower, 115 Malakas St., Diliman Quezon City during 7 days Prayer and Fasting for the nation amidst the political and economic crisis, August 31- September 7, 2005.

Philippine Flag
The New Covenant Banner of God
THE STANDARD OF GOD

PHILIPPINES: **The Pearl of the Orient seas**
PILIPINO: *PILI*-Chosen, *LIPI*-Race, *PINO*-Refine **1 Pet. 2:9**

GOD THE FATHER
Peace with God
God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM, Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, The Lord the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial - name to all generation. **Exodus 3:14-15**

JESUS CHRIST
Blood
Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through ourLord Jesus Christ. **Rom 5:1**
In Him we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. Eph. 1:7 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, Jesus Christ that who so ever believes in Him shall have everlasting life. **John 3:16**

HOLY SPIRIT
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples on all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and know that I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

3 STARS
Represent God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. **1 Jn 5:7-9; Matt. 3:16**

SUNRISE
Glory of God
Greater glory in the latter times. Rising Sun in the last days. Hag. 2:9
"Arise! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Is. 60:1
Shine! "And you shall declare My glory to the Nations." (Greater works) Is. 66:19

The NEW HEAVEN and EARTH
GOD the FATHER, JESUS CHRIST the SON and the HOLY SPIRIT will reign in Glory, Righteousness, Justice, Purity and Love.
The First heaven and the First earth will pass away. The New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **Rev. 21:1-2**

ONE NATION, ONE KING
"Behold the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they will be His people and God Himself will be among them". **Rev. 21:13, Ezekiel 37:22, 27**

THE HALLELUJAH BANNER

The Spiritual Meaning of the **Israel Flag**
The Old Covenant Banner of God
THE STANDARD OF GOD

NATIONS from all over the world raised **Hallelujah banners** at the **Azusa Centennial, Los Angeles, California, USA:** "All you people of the world, you who live on the earth, WHEN A BANNER IS RAISED on the mountain, you will see it, and when a trumpet sounds, you will hear it. This is what the Lord says to me: "I will remain quiet and will look on from my dwelling place, like shimmering heat in the sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest." *Isaiah 18:3-4*

How it all Began

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY of **Ms. Grace Galindez-Gupana,** Founder, PG Tower Ministries International, Philippines and Vice President, ABS Herbs Int'l Corp.

As you read my personal testimony, I ask you to pray with me this prayer:
Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind, because of Your love, You shed your blood to save me from all my sins. I acknowledge that I am a sinner and I have failed you. I repent of all my sins and I ask that you forgive me for not loving You, not following your commandments, and for following other gods and idols. Forgive me for not loving my country and fellowmen. Forgive me for not supporting, honoring and praying for the people and leaders You have placed in authority to lead and rule this chosen land.

Open my spiritual eyes to see Your will for my life. Allow my spiritual ears to hear Your voice and call. Soften my heart to have compassion and burden to help the unreached, the unbelievers, the poor and the oppressed Filipino brothers. Help me to love, honor and serve my country. You have called me by my name, as your child, and as part of the Filipino nation. Bring me into Your light, take full control of my life, my family, my business, and all my endeavors. Rule and reign in our country. In Jesus name. AMEN.

Let's face it: The Philippines is still in a political, socio-economic and spiritual crisis. The media are full of stories of civil unrest, instability and other problems: mass poverty, drug addiction of the youth, idolatry, immorality, corruption and many more.

It seems there is no end for the people especially the masses which are the most affected and disturbed, disoriented and tired of all the problems they encounter daily.

The small entrepreneurs like us also suffer because of the unstable business environment.

After years of hardwork and determination, God has blessed and brought forth success to our Herbal Food Supplement business, (ABS Herbs). However, two years ago, the reputation of Ampalaya (bitter herb) which our business is built on, began to be hit by some in the business sector. Then the Department of Health declared that the health benefits of Ampalaya was just folkloric. As a result, our business was greatly affected as sales went on a downward trend. In fact, even sales of the fresh Ampalaya suffered as people were no longer buying.

At first I was angry with the competitors and the government whom we thought brought damage to the growing potential of the Philippine herbal industry. I asked myself, what can I do? *Maliit lang kami, sino ba kami?* The damage has been done, yes, but life and business must go on. There is no other way but to move forward and continue to look for open doors. Alas! - **when God closes the door, He opens a window, and through this window, we can see the world and other opportunities.**

The only recourse I thought was for all of us in our company to humble ourselves before God through prayer and fasting. We sought God and perceived His will through His Word, the Bible. We opened our hearts to Him and repented.

In His mercy, God turned His face toward us. He comforted us and poured out His blessings abundantly. Eventually our sales recovered and even doubled. God healed our hearts and filled us with renewed hope. He united our employees with harmony and love. We learned to forgive, we felt His peace that passes all understanding.

I also received my clear calling from God as revealed in Matthew 28:18-20: *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

I have dedicated my life to God and everyday, He guides and leads me in fulfilling His great purpose for me and His Kingdom business on earth. To Him alone, I give the glory!.

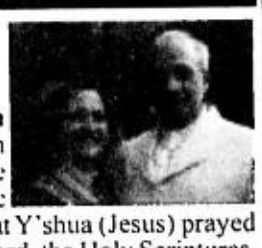
As a result, the 6th and 7th floors of PG Tower building, have been dedicated as venue for Praise God Tower Ministries Int'l., where people can come to seek God's presence, feel His glory and pray.

ISRAEL FLAG May God Reign. The Chosen Race, Beloved of the Lord. Prince of God. (The Timepiece of God)

STAR OF DAVID Represents the 12 (Twelve) TRIBES OF ISRAEL. " All are the twelve tribes of Israel and this is what their father said to them when He blessed them. He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to Him". Gen. 49:28

"And I will make you a great nation and I will bless you, and make your name great and so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who cursed I will curse". Gen. 12:2-3

Shalom from Israel to the Philippines



Dearly beloved

Filipinos:

As I look at the Hallelujah banner that is a combination between the Israeli flag and the Filipino flag, I can see the prophetic picture of that Heavenly Unity that Y'shua (Jesus) prayed for. The Jews were to speak the Word, the Holy Scriptures, The Torah in the light of Y'shua's sacrifice to the Gentiles and the Gentiles were to come in and enrich Israel with their presence by joining into the New Covenant through The Jewish Messiah Y'shua (Jesus). The result of this unity, this shalom, this total reconciliation would be: WORLD WIDE HARVEST! "*That the world may believe, that the world may know that you have sent me.*" Jn 17:21, 22.

In 1948 it was the Filippino vote that determined the establishing of the Jewish State and as the Philippines receives the Jews and the Jewish Roots of the faith back, I believe that their intercession, anointing and intervention will affect also Israel's full restoration to their land and to their Messiah., The Filipinos will make the Jews jealous to have Y'shua The Messiah, Jesus Christ back! Shalom on your Independence Day!

Bishop Dominiquae and Rabbi Baruch Bierman
Kad-Esh MAP Ministries, Jerusalem, Israel

AN URGENT MESSAGE TO OUR COUNTRYMEN

INDEPENDENCE IS FREEDOM, DEPENDENCE TO GOD

Our Only Hope

I believe God has a beautiful destiny for our beloved country. But for such to happen, God by His Spirit has to move in every life, family, business and all other areas like church, government and media.

The key to such great move of God is humility, sincere repentance and forgiving heart.

"If My people who are called by My Name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land". (2 Chron 7:14)

Man's ways are futile apart from God. Not by might, not by power, but by my SPIRIT* saith *the Lord!

To Our Beloved Countrymen Here and Abroad

I beg of you, let us come together in unity and love, humble ourselves as one nation, to seek the face of God and His will in our lives **through the Bible.**

For Your Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

We believe God has chosen you to be our leader in this chosen land (Lupang Hinirang) at this particular time according to Daniel 2:21-22. God has called you by your name *Gloria* - to rule and lead for His glory alone!

Your Excellency, *we come to you in the Name of our God and our Savior Jesus Christ.* ***We ask God's forgiveness and your forgiveness*** *for not honoring you (1 Peter 2:13-14; 17), not submitting to your leadership (Romans 13:1-5), not praying for you (1 Timothy 2:1-5) and not acknowledging your service to our nation and devotion to your duties.* ***Before God we repent of our sins.*** *In obedience to Him, we pray that His wisdom, guidance and anointing will always be on you as you lead the country to its great destiny. From your Prayer Intercessors.*

PG Tower Ministries Int'l.

On September 6-9, 2006
Bishop Dominique and Rabbi Bierman
Rev. Richard Muñoz, Argentina/Florida
will come to the Philippines to conduct
Messianic Apostolic Prophetic
MAP Revolution Conference in Quezon City.

FOR INQUIRIES:
Praise God Tower Ministries Int'l.
PG Tower, 115 Malakas St.,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
email: pg_tower@yahoo.com • Tel. no.: (632) 426-3699

*** Banner, Flag, Standard, Sign/Signal, Identity, Authority, Penant, Emblem.**

PINOY, Itaas mo bandila* mo para sa Dios at sa Bayan nating hinirang!

(Filipinos, raise your banner! For the glory of God, to our country and to the nations!)

DA warns bugs could wipe out rice harvest in Catanduanes

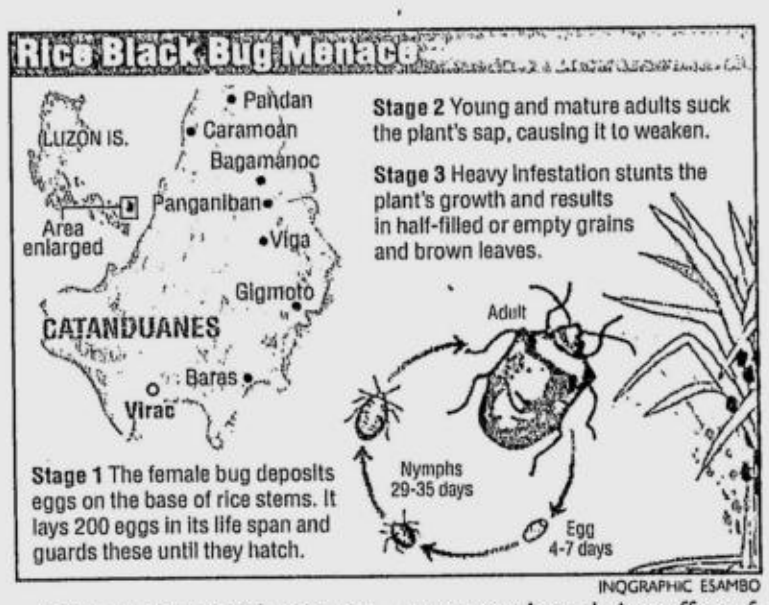
VIRAC, CATANDUANES—RICE black bugs could wipe out harvests in almost all of the 11 towns of the province, a team from the regional Department of Agriculture reported.

A five-man team from the DA regional office went to the towns of Bagamanoc, Viga, Panganiban, Caramoran, Pandan, Gigmoto and Baras to show farmers the extent of infestation. It said the bugs were blown to the island by winds brought by tropical storm "Caloy" on May 13.

The adult bugs have already started laying eggs on the bases of rice stalks.

The team's report prompted Herbert Evangelista of the Provincial Agricultural Support Office to call a meeting of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council chaired by Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr.

According to a pamphlet produced by the DA, the female bug deposits eggs on the base of the plant. It lays about 200 eggs in its life span and guards these until they hatch.



INOGRAPHIC ESAMBO

Forty to 60 greenish eggs are laid each time. They turn pink when they mature in three to five days.

The bug nymph is light brown, molts four to five times, and reaches adulthood in 25-30 days.

The oval-shaped, 9-mm adult is brownish black, with yellow spots in the chest. It lives for up to seven months and gives off an offensive odor when disturbed.

The infestation results in empty panicles, or half-filled grains, and can turn entire ricefields brown as the plants become stunted, wilt and later die.

According to a DA primer, yield loss ranges from 23 percent to 90 percent.

The team said local farmers may set up light traps using 20-watt fluorescent tubes or 500-watt mercury bulbs near the rice fields. These should be operated at night.

Light trapping should be done two to three days until after a full moon.

The trapped bugs should be collected before sunrise, placed in sacks and buried.

The team sought the assistance of the provincial government in growing the green muscardine fungus, *Metarrhizium anisopliae*, which attacks adults and nymph bugs.

Fields can also be flooded to submerge eggs. When placed under water for 24 hours, the eggs will no longer hatch.

Ducks, which feed on the bugs, can also be herded to the fields a month after transplanting or when the plants are already established.

The DA said the use of insecticides should be a last resort because it might destroy the bugs' natural enemies. *Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

FROM the other side of the fence emerged supporters of mining during a recent visit of environment officials in another mining site, in Rapu-Rapu, Albay. NINO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Aussie firm holds 1st flag ceremony at mining site

A MINING COMPANY HOUNDED by an investigation into two waste spills in its site in Rapu-Rapu, Albay and continuing protests by leftist militant groups held its first flag ceremony yesterday, Independence Day, and would do so every Monday.

In a press statement, Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI) chair and president Carlos Dominguez said the simple ceremony on Independence Day would start off the company's effort to promote sense of country and instill in its workforce a deeper commitment to responsible mining.

"This is a simple gesture but I am sure it will go a long way. A fired-up workforce will do its best for the company and all its stakeholders, especially the host communities," he said.

Dominguez, who was tapped to head a Filipino team to manage the Rapu-Rapu project, said people and technology would drive the company to its goal of getting sustained public support and acceptance.

"We have put in place all the needed remedial measures. We are confident of demonstrating that we will be sincere and responsible partners in the growth of the host communities," he said.

The environment group Greenpeace earlier presented a report claiming residents of communities near Rapu-Rapu would gain only P2 a day out of the mine operations.

LPI is awaiting a government decision today on its request to test its remedial measures and eventually resume full operations.

Mindoro mining enemies claim success in tour

CITY OF CALAPAN—EFFORTS by protesters to raise awareness on mining in Mindoro were disturbing to a shareholder of a foreign mining firm that plans to extract nickel in Mindoro, according to a leader of the Alliance against Mining on Mindoro Island (Alamin), the protesters' group.

"Goldman-Sachs, which holds about 61 million shares in Crew, was disturbed by the issues we raised," said Fr. Edwin Gariguez of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan and leader of Alamin.

Ben de los Reyes, spokesperson of Crew Mining in Mindoro, said protesters were still unaware of his firm's planned operation and would launch an information and education campaign.

Leaders of Alamin and Mindoro tribes earlier toured the United Kingdom to campaign against the planned operations of Crew. They were invited to speak in the British parliament.

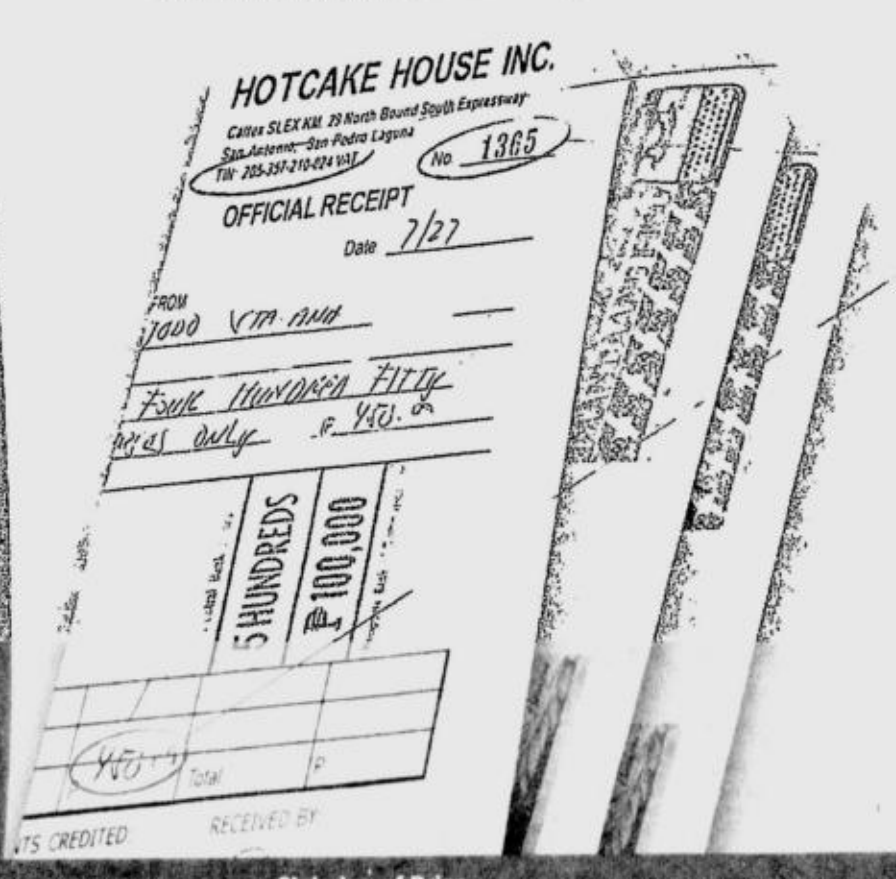
Gariguez said Alamin's campaign "paved the way for a possible fact-finding (mission) and resolutions ... (for) stricter regulation of UK companies and complaint mechanisms for affected (mining) communities."

Crew plans to develop a nickel and cobalt mine in Mindoro on a concession almost 100 sq km in area and straddling the provinces of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro. Reserves are estimated to be good for 30 years. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PARA MAGING MILYONARYO, HINGIN ANG RESIBO

LINGGO LINGGO
MARAMING INSTANT
MILYONARYO!

HURRY! Start sending text entries NOW!
All text entries starting June 1 are valid for the first draw on AUGUST 1.



NAPAKADALING SUMALI!

I-text ang keyword PSR kasama ang mga detalye ng resibo :
PSR <space> Tax Identification Number (TIN) of establishment that issued the receipt * Receipt Number * Receipt Amount

Send to 9777 (SMART, TALK N' TEXT & ADDICT MOBILE). Every P100 value of the receipt entitles you to one text-raffle entry. As an added bonus, you get an extra text-raffle entry for remaining fractions P50 and above.
For example, you can text 5 times and be entitled to 5 raffle entries using the same P450 receipt details, but only 4 entries for a P449 receipt.

The cost per text entry is only P1.50 (introductory price). All text-raffle entries will be issued a unique raffle entry number.

The more entries you send, the higher the chances of becoming a millionaire!

Schedule of Draws

- Receipts issued should fall within the weekly period prior to the draw date to qualify except for the first draw. Weekly draw day is every Tuesday and deadline of text-raffle entries is 12:00 midnight of the Monday before the draw.

	Draw Dates	Qualified Receipt Dates
1st draw	August 1, 2006	June 1 to July 31, 2006
2nd draw	August 8, 2006	August 1 to 7, 2006
3rd draw	August 15, 2006	August 8 to 14, 2006

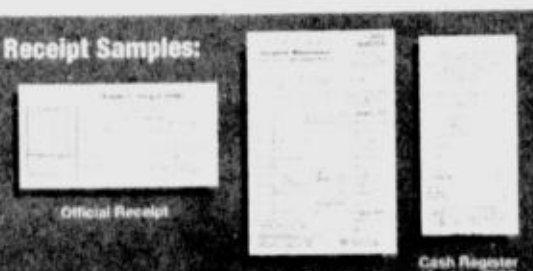
Succeeding weekly draw periods will be announced regularly in tv, radio and print ads.

- The draw of the winning raffle entry number/s shall be televised live on the scheduled draw date.

Claiming of Prize

- P1 Million per winner. There will be five (5) winners on the first draw.
- Winning raffle entry number/s shall be published in newspapers.
- Winners will be notified via text and a call on his/her cellphone as to where and how to claim the prize.
- To claim prize, winner must present the following:
  1. Original copy of the receipt used for the text-raffle entry. The date of which must be within the coverage period for that particular draw.
  2. Saved notification text message on the cellphone.
  3. Two valid IDs.
  4. Authorization letter (Applicable only if the receipt is in the name of a company and not under the claimant's name).
- Prize unclaimed after 60 days from date of notification shall be forfeited.

Valid Receipt Samples:



Receipt should have minimum amount of P100.

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Help a beacon, save a nat'l treasure

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BURGOS, ILOCOS NORTE—THE OVER A century-old Burgos lighthouse (known locally as the Cape Bojeador lighthouse) is not just a beacon to seafarers.

It is also a source of provincial pride after the National Museum declared it a national cultural treasure in December 2005.

Perched on Vigia de Nagpartian hill, the lighthouse, however, cries out for national attention as it continues to battle the elements that have been battering it the last 114 years.

The structure is composed of a 160-m tall light tower, living and office quarters and a courtyard.

Completed on March 30, 1892, the lighthouse was built by Guillermo Brockman from a design by Magin Pers y Pers. It is made of locally fabricated bricks and accented with cast metal grillwork.

Octagonal tower

Motorists driving north through the province can catch sight of the lighthouse which dominates the Burgos skyline.

Lone lighthouse keeper Vicente Acoba Sr. is kept busy by the steady stream of visitors who climb the steep steps leading to the tri-level complex that supports the octagonal lighthouse tower.

Panorama of the sea

From its top, one can easily take in the sweeping panorama of the sea and the surrounding countryside.

"Sea vessels making the voyage from the Babuyanes Channel toward Hong Kong or Yokohama (Japan) can't miss the lighthouse," Acoba told the INQUIRER.

'Sea vessels making the voyage from the Babuyanes Channel toward Hong Kong or Yokohama(Japan) can't miss the lighthouse'

THE OVER a century-old Cape Bojeador lighthouse beckons for national assistance.
CRISTINA ARZADON

Based on an initial study commissioned by the National Museum, the base of the lighthouse needs to be strengthened before the structure could be improved.

The building is in good condition but the living quarters and offices need to be repaired.

At one point, Councilor Joegie Jimenez, chair of the Burgos Tourism Council, said, archeologists from the University of the Philippines who did research on the lighthouse excavated a site where the kiln that was used to fire up the bricks that make up the structure was buried. Old bricks were also found in the hole.

Jimenez said the tourism council plans to put up a landmark at the site.

"We need to make people aware of the need to save the lighthouse. This is the town's single, most important structure," he said.

Jimenez said efforts to preserve the lighthouse complex were continuing after initial restoration work for the roofing was completed.

Symbol of Spanish times

Donations, mostly from Burgos residents here and abroad, helped restore the town's most enduring symbol of the Spanish era.

The funds, however, were not enough to restore the entire structure.

"We need to have more improvements. We only managed to repair the rotting roof and upgrade its wooden support," Jimenez said.

"We thought that by being declared a national treasure, the national government would pay attention to its preservation by helping produce funds," Jimenez, a board member at the time, said.

He said the lighthouse was in bad shape after being whipped by Typhoon Feria in 2001.

"The iron sheets were flapping while several glass panels surrounding the lighting device were shattered."

"The structure itself was left rotting," Jimenez said.

He said the foundation is preparing a rehabilitation proposal it will submit to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts for funding support.

1,000-postcard campaign

The proposal would contain a technical study on what kind of preservation the lighthouse should undergo.

The roof improvement was made possible through the "Save the Cape Bojeador Lighthouse" campaign that Jimenez and the Cape Bojeador Development Foundation initiated in 2003. Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is the foundation's honorary chair.

Burgos Mayor Benjamin Campañano caused the placing of streetlights in the courtyard, which serves as the main entrance to the complex.

Jimenez reproduced some 1,000 postcards, touting the campaign, which were distributed to Burgos natives living in other countries.

The campaign raised some P2.2 million from contributions and from provincial government funds.

It was the second rehabilitation the lighthouse underwent since its construction in 1892. The first improvement was done in 1982.

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pc_metro@inquirer.com.ph

BILLBOARDS that dot major thoroughfares nationwide not only offended aesthetic sensibilities but were also considered road safety risks.

VAL HANDUMON

DPWH seeks ban on billboards

Distractions, say complaints

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS from motorists, the department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has finally drafted a circular which would ban billboards from being displayed alongside major roads nationwide.

The circular, which came from the department's National Building Code Development Office (NBCDO), has already been submitted for approval to DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, according to NBCDO director Emmanuel Cuntapay.

Once approved, it would prohibit the putting up of advertising billboards or signs within a 100-meter radius of the center of national roads as well as transmission lines. It also calls for the removal within six months of existing display boards within the 100-meter radius.

Cuntapay said the order was drawn up to protect motorists from being distracted by the billboards which dot the sides of roads. "The premise of this under the building code is that anything that distracts the motorist is a violation. If a motorist gets distracted, he may get into accidents," the NBCDO official said. The order, he added, would be enforced by building officials of local government units.

According to the NBCDO chief, inspections conducted by the DPWH in Northern and Southern Luzon showed that many billboards have been put up beside thoroughfares and in full view of motorists.

In Metro Manila, larger-than-life billboards, some featuring scantily-clad models, also loom over busy thoroughfares. Cuntapay pointed out in Singapore, billboards do not face the road but face buildings because their targets are not drivers but building occupants.

Apart from banning advertising displays alongside roads, the circular also orders building officials to conduct an inventory of all buildings and other public structures, including billboards, to determine whether these are still fit to use and follow building code standards.

"The secretary's orders are meant to make buildings safe and to see to it that the building code is followed," Cuntapay said. He added that Ebdane, as the national building official, is also responsible for ensuring that the law is implemented.

"Conduct an inventory of all buildings and other structures like pylons, advertising signs, etc. in your area of jurisdiction, to determine whether these buildings/structures are still fit for human habitation/use," the circular stated.

After conducting an inventory, building officials should also submit a monthly report to Ebdane, through the NBCDO, about the status of the buildings and other structures under their jurisdiction. "This is meant to help the DPWH formulate a work plan to improve building management," Cuntapay said.

He added that Ebdane wants to ensure the enforcement of the building code to minimize the loss of lives in the event of disasters such as fires or earthquakes. "We should not be reactive. We should prepare for disasters," Cuntapay said.

Headhunters had a busy day in QC

By DJ Yap

HUNDREDS OF JOB HUNTERS took advantage of the holiday yesterday to take part in a job and livelihood fair staged by the Quezon City government.

At 7:30 a.m., people began gathering around the Quezon City Hall quadrangle, filling out application forms and other required documents for the fair, which was scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As many as 15,000 jobs — both local and overseas — were up for grabs, according to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

With the theme "Kalayaan mula sa kahirapan (freedom from poverty)," the day-long activity was the city's contribution to the fight against hunger and poverty, the mayor said.

He added that the Independence Day celebration would be more meaningful, if spent with the plight of the country's poor in mind.

Apart from the participating recruitment agencies, the fair also featured services like business counseling, demonstrations, exhibits and pre-employment document processing, said QC Public Employment Services Office chief Ignacio Santos Diaz.

It was the fifth job fair held in the city this year, he added.

On May 1, Labor Day, a "mega job fair" jointly held with the Department of Labor and Employment and other agencies was also conducted in Quezon City. It offered some 30,000 jobs to thousands of job seekers.

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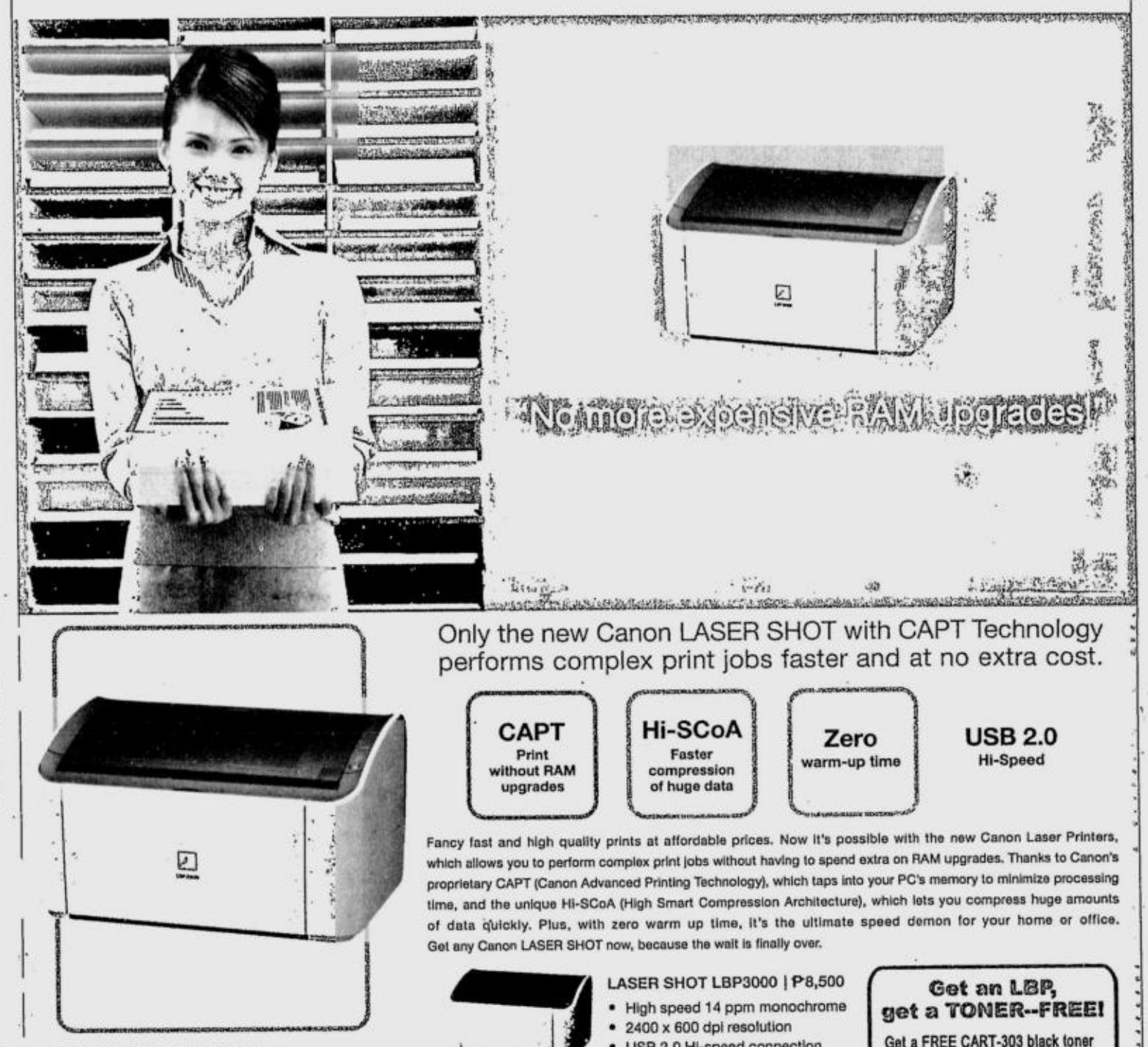

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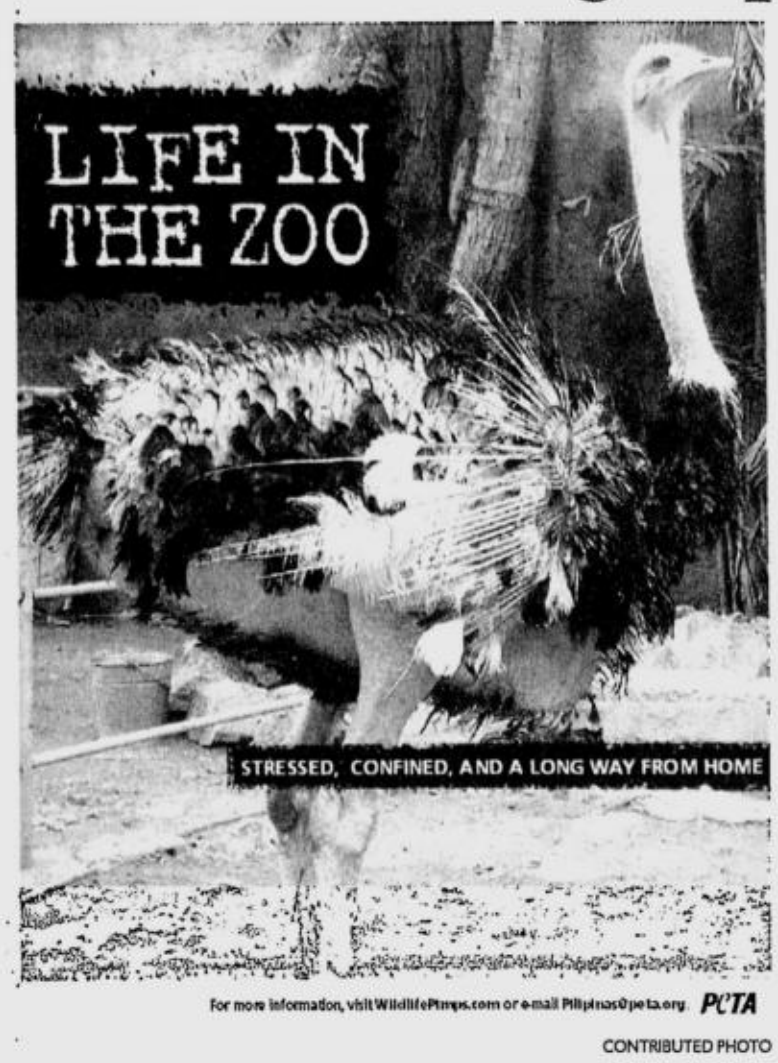
Animal welfare group steps up antizoo drive with ads campaign



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A PETA ad featuring an ostrich in a zoo.

By Tina G. Santos

THE PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL Treatment of Animals (Peta) has stepped up its campaign to shut down all the zoos in the country.

Jamie Alarcon, spokesperson of the animal rights group, yesterday said they have come up with various antizoo advertisements "to strengthen their campaign and to remind people that animals are better off in the wild."

"We stand in our belief that the only thing zoos teach people is that it's okay to imprison the innocent and dictate to them what to do with their lives," she said.

"It's wrong to put these animals on display so that people can learn about them," Alarcon added.

The protest, part of Peta's worldwide campaign against zoos, calls for the Philippines to lead the way by becoming the first zoo-free country in Asia.

Peta's antizoo advertisements include posters showing a comparison of animals who live in the wild and those confined in a zoo, Alarcon said.

One poster features an ostrich and an elephant inside a zoo.

Underneath the pictures is the message: "Life in the zoo: Lonely, sad, stressed, confined and away from home."

"Ostriches can run up to 70 kilometers per hour. Just one stride can be three to five meters long—bigger than most rooms! They live in herds made up of 10 up to 100 animals," Alarcon said.

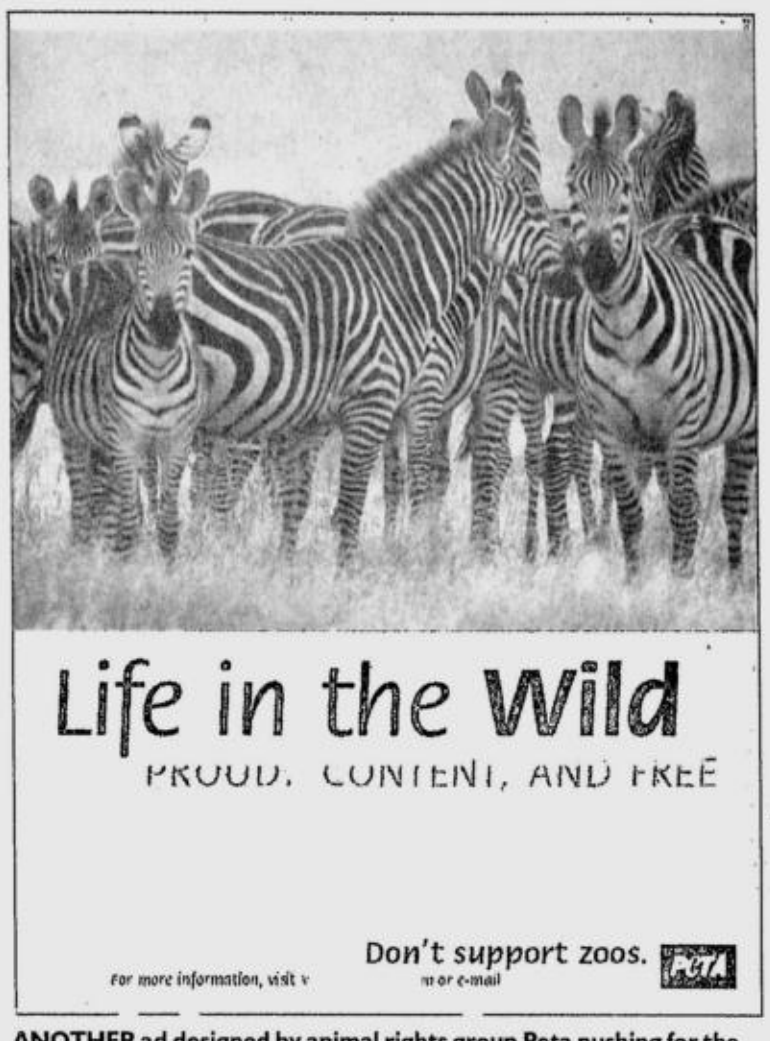
She added that the elephant in Manila Zoo is confined to a small enclosure with little grass.

"Elephants can walk up to 48 kilometers every day in the wild but the entire zoo measures 5.5 hectares, or 0.055-sq km," the Peta spokesperson said.

The other print ads feature an orangutan and several zebras living in the wild with the message: "Life in the wild: Gentle, happy, proud, content and free."

"Orangutans, a highly endangered species, spend nearly all their time in the trees," she said. "The Manila Zoo has a metal platform for its orangutan, but little else for swinging and other exercise."

Alarcon said their group would also shoot antizoo commercials featuring local celebrities.



ANOTHER ad designed by animal rights group Peta pushing for the closure of zoos nationwide. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

METROBRIEFS

Fire in Parañaque

FIRE swept through a crowded neighborhood in Parañaque City at noon yesterday, leaving a man injured and hundreds of families homeless. Firemen traced the blaze, which destroyed P6.5 million worth of property, to the makeshift house of Inday Factor on UP S-5 Espiritu Compound in Barangay Isidro. According to witnesses, they saw flames coming from the ceiling of Factor's house at noon yesterday which spread to adjacent houses. More than 80 shanties were destroyed in the fire that lasted for more than two hours, city fire marshal Supt. Leonides Perez reported. "We have yet to determine what caused the fire," Perez said.

Jocelyn R. Uy

First for 'financiers'

FOR the first time, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested an alleged illegal horse race betting financier during a raid on his remittance center in Sampaloc, Manila the other night. NBI acting director Nestor Mantaring identified the suspect as Manuel de Guzman, of Vicente Cruz St. in Sampaloc, Manila. The NBI also arrested four persons reportedly working for him: Mary Ann Puda, Annaliza Resurrecion, Rene Bacolor and Romulo Magat. "We have arrested bookies in the past, but not financiers," NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda said. Esmeralda had ordered his men to conduct surveillance operations based on reliable information regarding an alleged bookie remittance center at Nos. 784 and 778 Vicente Cruz St. The operatives also confiscated a summary of collections made and a list of offices and individuals allegedly receiving bribe money from De Guzman during the raid. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Rosaries for cops

THEY were ready and alert, but policemen deployed to the historic Edsa Shrine ended up being snubbed by protesters yesterday. Their patience and vigilance still paid off, however. The almost 200 policemen of the Eastern Police District each received a blessed brown rosary from shrine priest Fr. Vic Apacible early yesterday morning. The policemen still wore the rosaries on their necks by noon as they waited, in vain, for any lightning rallies in the area. The protesters, it turned out, had chosen other areas to mark Independence Day yesterday. "The situation here is peaceful," Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino told the INQUIRER. The policemen had been deployed at the shrine as early as Friday night, ready for militant groups who scheduled rallies against President Macapagal-Arroyo and her proposed charter change. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Manila High alumni homecoming

THE MANILA High School will hold a reunion for its alumni on June 16 at 4 p.m. at the Manila Hotel to highlight its week-long centennial week celebration which started June 11. The Manila High School, located at Muralla corner Victoria Streets in Intramuros, was the first public secondary school set up by the Americans in the country on June 11, 1906. Interested alumni and retired faculty may call the principal, Arnulfo H. Empleo at 5275162 or 521-4199, Luisa Triumfo at 0915-5050799 or Dr. Beng Manalang at 0918-9030791 for details. They can also contact event organizers through the website: www.manilahighschool.com.

First aid training

SINCE they are usually the first to respond to emergencies, policemen in Manila were given a special training on first aid last Saturday. A group of physicians and surgeons from the Philippine College of Surgeons-Metro Manila Chapter conducted the training for members of the Manila Police District, including the Special Weapons and Tactics team. MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the special Basic Trauma and Life Support courses would help improve the police officers' skills in providing first aid treatment for victims of emergencies or disasters.

Tina G. Santos

All set to open, but no one to man center

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WANTED: PEOPLE WHO STAY cool and keep their wits about them when faced with an emergency.

The Makati City government is looking for 70 persons with these qualities to man its 24-hour command center—the Makati Command, Control and Communication Emergency Alert Response System (C3 EARS).

C3 EARS would be in charge of coordinating the movements of the Makati's protective services, from the police and fire departments, to emergency medical services like the Makati Rescue, and the Department of Public Services.

The city government hopes to start operating the facility by next month.

"We need people who would receive the calls and know which unit to dispatch based on the emergency," said Joey Salgado, the city's Information and Community Relations Department chief.

"They should also have knowledge of first aid so that upon receiving the call, they would be able to instruct the caller on what to do while waiting for responders to arrive," he added.

Salgado said the slots would be open to both male and female applicants who meet the requirements.

"They should know how to solve problems immediately and they should be able to keep calm. They should be able to talk a caller through an emergency situation," he elaborated.

Those who are interested should apply at the Urban Development Department of the Makati City Hall.

Miaa vows improved services at airport

By Nikko Dizon

THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ORder that reaffirmed the security and operational control of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) over the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) will pave the way for "drastic improvements" in basic passenger services.

"It will help the authority orchestrate much needed reforms in terms of security practices, passenger handling, public service, and other airport services in cooperation with all the concerned agencies in the international airport complex," said Alfonso Cusi, Miaa general manager, in a recent statement.

Administrative Order No. 151, signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 20, tasked the Miaa general manager with the implementation of security measures to ensure the safety of passengers at the Naia against terrorist attacks.

It also authorized him to order government agencies operating at the Naia to make adjustments in their workflow, layout, policies and procedures, among others, "to ensure consistency and responsiveness of all security-related plans," the statement said.

Among the agencies operating at the Naia are the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration, Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group, Bureau of Quarantine and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Cusi said that by working together, the Miaa, as the lead agency, will be able to "make drastic improvements in the way we give basic passenger services to our customers and (the) public at large."

However, he did not mention what these improvements would be.

In recent months, the Miaa has implemented several new security measures, including the sanitized baggage system and the rearrangement of the layout of x-rays at the initial check-in counters.

Why compensate kin of a rapist?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHY COMPENSATE THE RELAtives of Leo Echegaray, rapist of a 10-year-old girl, just because Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said the Supreme Court made a "judicial error"?

Echegaray was guilty as hell. He deserved to die by lethal injection which, at the time, was the penalty for rapists.

Whether the girl he raped was his daughter or not is irrelevant since the girl was the daughter of his common-law wife.

That made Echegaray the girl's stepfather. That made him a *bantay-salakay* or one who violated a trust.

Why quibble over Echegaray's relationship with the rape victim when he was found guilty of raping a 10-year-old girl?

It would have been different if the Supreme Court found out later that he didn't rape the girl. But he did, so what's the problem?

* * *

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel has added fuel to the controversy of Leo Echegaray's "wrongful death" by preparing a bill that would seek a P10-million compensation for Echegaray's family.

Whew! What would they think of next?

Why should the relatives of a convicted rapist be compensated, just because the Chief Justice said he should not have been sent to the lethal injection chamber?

* * *

One thing good has come out of Chief Justice Panganiban's revelation of "judicial error" on Echegaray's death.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that persons who were wrongfully sent to jail may ask the Board of Claims for compensation.

Gonzalez said that under the law creating the Board of Claims under the Department of Justice, those eligible for compensation are: (1) those who were unjustly accused, convicted and imprisoned and subsequently released by virtue of a judgment of acquittal; (2) those who were unjustly detained and released without being charged; (3) those who were victims of arbitrary detention by the authorities; (4) and those who were victims of violent crime, including rape and offenses committed with malice which resulted in death or serious physical and/or psychological injuries, permanent incapacity or disability, insanity, abortion, serious trauma, or committed with torture, cruelty or barbarity.

Only very few people knew about the existence of a law creating the Board of Claims.

My staff and I at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo!" have handled plenty of cases of unjust accusation and oppression committed by people in authority against innocent civilians.

One such victim is Ricky Romualdo, a mechanic, who was jailed for one year after Quezon City policemen "planted" illegal drugs on his person. He was acquitted by the court that tried him.

* * *

A powerful figure has a hooker for a girlfriend. He reportedly beats her up whenever she goes out with other men.

The girl complains the powerful figure doesn't give her money to get out of the world's oldest profession.

According to my sources in the profession, the powerful figure even has somebody tail her wherever she goes.

Tsk, tsk, tsk!

This powerful figure apparently doesn't know the existence of Republic Act 9262 or the law against stalking women and children.

Recognition, finally, for Pasay's forgotten heroine

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A HEROINE WHOSE NAME AND acts of bravery during the Spanish war were rarely mentioned in history books, finally got the recognition she deserved.

The Pasay City government yesterday unveiled the monument to Marcela Marcelo in Malibay, the place where she was born in 1869.

The 11-foot bronze sculpture depicted Marcelo as several historians had described her: A woman with flowing hair who was always in the thick of the battle wielding a *bolo*.

In the book "Some Minutes of the Revolution of 1896-97," Carlos Ronquillo, private secretary of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, wrote: "One of our platoons was led by a woman of great courage; a middle-aged married woman who had a child, a woman from Pasay, who was always in the heat of the battle, with no weapons but a *bolo*..."

"She died a heroine when the Spanish trenches were taken in Pasong Santol (in Cavite)," Ronquillo wrote.

Marcelo, also known as "Selang Bagsik" and "Henerala Sela," was believed to belong to an upper-class family who owned a betel nut farm.

She married Quirino Lugo of Aguho, Pateros. She bore a son, whom she reportedly entrusted to her sister when her husband was taken away by government troops.

Marcelo was believed to have led a group of Filipino rebels to raid the enemy's stronghold.

She was killed after she was shot in the head by Spanish soldiers, according to Martin Vinago, a historian.

It was also her picture that was believed to have been imprinted on the certificates of members of the "Veteranos de la Revolucion" which were kept in a small book owned by Roman Abad, a *katipunero* from Imus, Cavite.

THE MONUMENT built in honor of Marcela Marcelo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"We must emulate Marcela Marcelo's bravery. Today, we are still yearning for freedom ... freedom from poverty," Pasay Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said in a speech during the unveiling of the historical marker yesterday.

Bush, aides in post-Zarqawi session

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush convenes a war council this week hoping to build momentum after Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's death, but the big question overhanging the talks is when US troops will return from Iraq.

Bush will hold two days of high-level consultations at Camp David starting on Monday to reassess strategy on Iraq as he struggles with an increasingly unpopular war that has dragged down his approval ratings in a congressional election year.

Surrounded by top advisers, he may also have to contend with fallout from the suicides of three Arabs held at the US military prison at Guantanamo. Their deaths on Saturday triggered new international calls to close the detention camp.

Iraq, however, will dominate the agenda at the presidential retreat, where Bush wants his national security team to meet away from their normal daily distractions.

His administration is eager to capitalize on the killing of Zarqawi, leader of al-Qaida in Iraq and mastermind of some of the bloodiest bombings since a 2003 US-led invasion, as well as the long-awaited creation of an Iraqi unity government.

In a videoconference on Tuesday, Bush and his chief aides, including Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, are expected to press Iraqi leaders not to squander the chance to assert their authority and win the confidence of Iraqis.

"There's a window here in which it's important for them to show success, and that is exactly why the meeting is taking place now, to make sure we are doing everything we can to ensure the success," White House counselor Dan Bartlett said.

Although Bush has tempered expectations that Camp David will yield a decision on troop reductions, no one is ruling out the possibility that future troop levels will be discussed, even as insurgent attacks persist in Iraq.

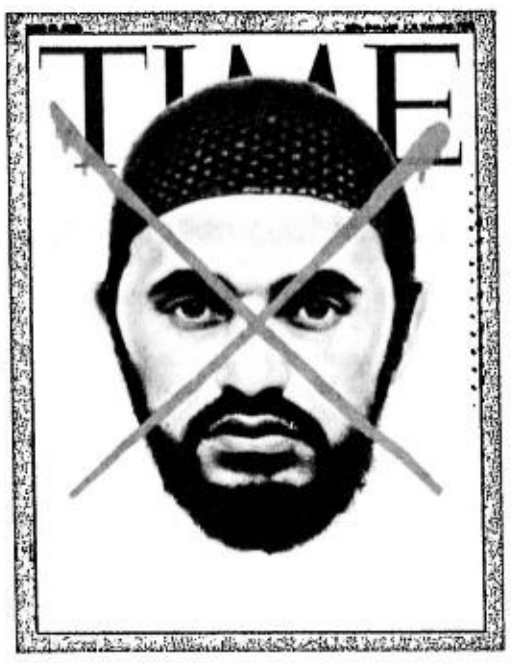
Gen. George Casey, the top US commander in Iraq, predicted on Sunday that American forces would scale back gradually in coming months if the new government holds together and the Iraqi army makes progress. He and other senior officers will join the Camp David conference by video link on Monday.

Despite pressure from Democrats for a plan to bring troops home soon, Bush has offered no timetable for a withdrawal of the 131,000 US troops in Iraq. He insists US forces cannot leave until the Iraqis can secure their own country.

Military commanders had hoped to reduce the US presence to 100,000 troops by the end of the year, but an unrelenting insurgency and sectarian violence have cast doubt on that.

Zarqawi's killing in a US air strike on Wednesday was a desperately needed military success for Bush, who has seen public disenchantment with the war increase as American casualties—now topping 2,400—have mounted.

But he has warned the death of one enemy will not end the war. Al-Qaida in Iraq on Sunday vowed to carry out attacks to "shake the enemy and rob them of sleep," and a car bomb killed six people in Baghdad soon after the threat was made. *Reuters*



AL-ZARQAWI on the cover of the June 19 issue of Time magazine. AFP/TIME

Saudi: Asia not to blame for high oil prices

KUALA LUMPUR—ASIA IS LEADING OIL DEmand growth but its effect on pushing up oil prices has been exaggerated, while speculative trading is distorting supply security, the head of Saudi Aramco said on Monday.

"Without a doubt developments in Asia have changed the dynamics of oil—forever," said Abdallah Jum'ah, CEO of the world's largest producer of crude oil.

"The center of gravity for energy demand growth is moving eastward," he told the Asia Oil and Gas conference by video, but added that OECD countries still accounted for the majority of demand and the United States a quarter of the total.

"We're witnessing a fair degree of scaremongering when it comes to the effect of Asian demand," he said. "It's clearly unfair to land the blame for high oil prices on Asian consumer countries."

Oil markets were rattled by record 15 percent demand growth in China in 2004, though this has slowed and is forecast to be around 6 percent this year for the world's second-biggest oil consumer.

Demand from the world's third-largest consumer Japan is not showing much growth, while demand in countries such as Thailand and Indonesia has been dampened in the past year by reduced government fuel subsidies that helped spur oil imports.

Jum'ah said cooperation between consumers and producers was needed for a secure energy future and a new breed of Asian oil firms, such as Malaysia's Petronas, were becoming more active in pursuing supplies.

But he said that energy security worries were casting a long shadow over efforts to balance oil markets.

"We see a greater susceptibility to all threats," he said.

"Increased futures trading is serving to amplify the effect—it's serving as an inflationary effect."

US crude futures surged to a record of $75.35 on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) in April on fears that a dispute over Iran's nuclear program may affect Gulf flows, but prices have slipped back on concern over inflation hurting demand. *Reuters*

PIRATE HUNTERS
Bath Iron Works shipyard in Maine on a frigid morning. A new breed of Navy ship, faster and easier to maneuver, is to be launched later this year to meet threats from modern-day pirates and terrorists who turn speedboats into suicide weapons. AP

2 grannies charged with fraud

LOS ANGELES—DWIGHT EMILE SAYS HIS neighbor Olga Rutterschmidt always had a thing for get-rich-quick schemes.

"She'd say, 'Dwight, do you want to make some extra money?'" said Emile, a music producer and songwriter who lives in Hollywood. "I'd say, 'No, if it's not legal.'"

"I always used to say to her that one day I'd see her on the 11 o'clock news," Emile said.

Now he has.

Rutterschmidt, 73, and another woman, Helen Golay, 75, pleaded not guilty June 5 to federal charges of mail fraud and submitting false insurance applications. According to the authorities, the two women extended helping hands to two homeless men, getting them off the streets and putting them up in apartments, while at the same time plotting their deaths.

Posing as aunts, fiancees or cousins, they took out numerous life insurance policies on the men, Paul Vados and Kenneth McDavid, with themselves as the beneficiaries, collecting over $2.2 million after the men died in separate hit-and-run traffic cases, the authorities said.

The women have not been charged in the deaths, but the police said they were the main suspects. Rutterschmidt, who is from Hungary, met Vados, also born in Hungary, at a local Hungarian church, the authorities said.

"It's one of the most sinister, evil types of schemes I've ever seen, if it does turn out to be the case," said Lt. Paul Vernon, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles Police Department. "They had to form a relationship with these men, get to know them, show that they cared, then turn around and kill them." *NYT*

Al-Qaida in Iraq vows to 'shake the enemy'

BAGHDAD—AL-QAIDA IN IRAQ vowed on Sunday to carry out attacks to "shake the enemy" after the killing of its leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, heightening fears his death will bring no respite from carnage.

The group said in an Internet statement its leading body met after Zarqawi's death to discuss strategy and renew a pledge to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

"We plan large-scaled operations that will shake the enemy and rob them of sleep, in coordination with the other factions of the Mujahideen Council," the statement said.

Iraqi leaders and their closest ally US President George W. Bush hailed Zarqawi's death in a US air strike on Wednesday as a major victory in the battle against "terrorism."

But no one expects violence to ease dramatically: A car bomb killed six people and wounded 42 in Baghdad just hours after the statement was published, police said.

Sunni Arab insurgents and al-Qaida militants are waging a campaign of bombings and shootings to topple the Shiite-led government backed by Washington.

The commander of US troops in Iraq predicted in an interview with CBS television on Sunday a gradual reduction of the 131,000 US forces there if the new Iraqi unity government held together and the Iraqi army improved.

Army Gen. George Casey said a growing number of Iraqi army units were capable of leading the battle against the insurgency with US logistical support and he expected almost all of them to develop the capability by the end of this year.

"As long as the Iraqi security forces continue to progress and as long as this national unity government continues to operate that way and move the country forward, I think we're to be able to see continued gradual reduction of coalition forces over the coming months and into next year," Casey said.

Insurgents killed four Iraqi soldiers during an attack on a desert Iraqi army base in rebellious Anbar province on Sunday and police found the beheaded body of an Iraqi soldier in a river near Tikrit.

A roadside bomb in northern Baghdad also seriously wounded a senior police officer. A policeman driving the car was killed and another was wounded.

New Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki hopes his national unity government of Shiites, Kurds and Arab Sunnis will end the attacks and tackle the sectarian violence that has pushed the country close to civil war.

He said last week that more than 2,000 detainees would be released from US military and Iraqi prisons to try to help promote national reconciliation. A second group of prisoners was freed on Sunday after nearly 600 were released last week. *Reuters*

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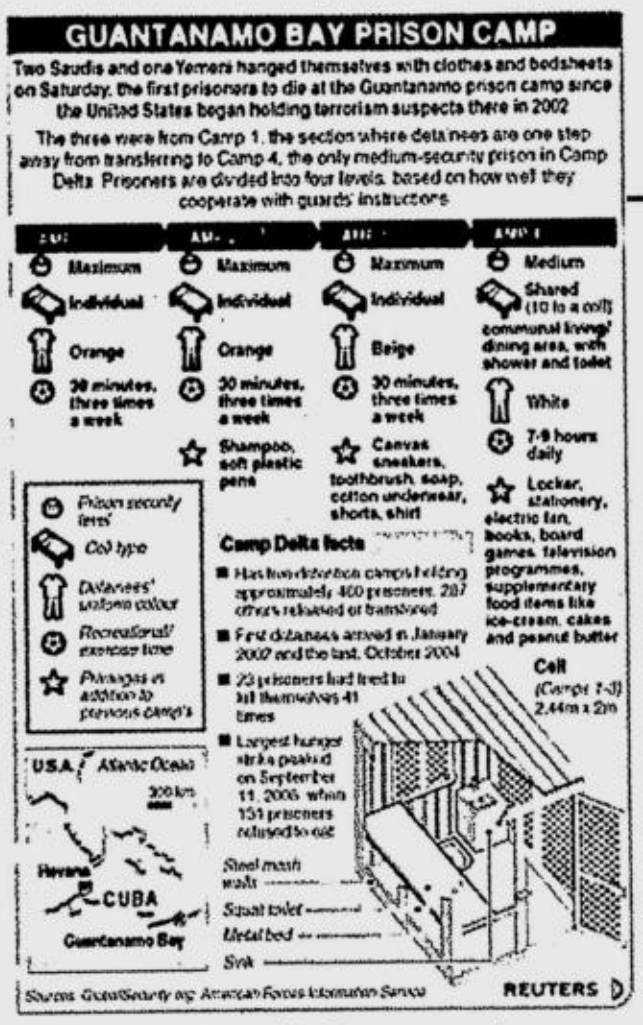
The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



CUTAWAY of a prison cell in Guantanamo prison camp where three prisoners hanged themselves on Saturday.

Inmates concealed suicide bid

US begins inquiry into suicide of 3 Guantanamo detainees

WASHINGTON—THREE DETAINEES AT THE US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, tried to conceal themselves in their cells—behind laundry and through other means—to prevent guards from seeing them commit suicide, an official said Sunday.

One of the prisoners hanged himself behind laundry drying from the ceiling of the cell, and had arranged his bed to make it look as if he was still sleeping, according to the official, Lt. Cmdr. Robert T. Durand of the Navy. The other two detainees who committed suicide also took steps to prevent guards from seeing that they had put nooses around their necks, he added.

The deception by the prisoners raises questions about how long it took military guards to discover the bodies. Regulations at Guantanamo call for guards to check on each inmate every two minutes.

Military officials said one focus of an investigation into the suicides would be the need for procedural changes, such as barring prisoners from doing laundry in their cells.

The Pentagon identified the three detainees as two Saudis, Mani bin Shaman bin Turki al-Habardi, 30, and Yasser Talal Abdulah Yahya al-Zahrani, 22, and a Yemeni, Ali Abdullah Ahmed, 33.

White House officials on Sunday described the men as committed terrorists, and military officials said that none of them had been among the handful of prisoners whose cases have been brought before military commissions for prosecution.

The Pentagon released a statement describing Ali Abdullah Ahmed, the Yemeni, as a "mid to high-level al-Qaida operative" who was close to Abu al-Zubaydah, a senior figure for al-Qaida who has since been captured. The statement also said that Mani al-Habardi was a member of a terrorist group that recruits for al-Qaida, and had been recommended for transfer to another country; presumably that would be Saudi Arabia. The Pentagon said that Yasser al-Zahrani was "a frontline fighter for the Taliban" who participated in the prison uprising at Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan that resulted in the death of Johnny Micheal Spann, a CIA operative.

Military officials said they had translated notes left by the prisoners, but the officials refused to describe the contents of the messages.

The investigation into how the three prisoners were able to hang themselves and whether changes in procedures are necessary will be conducted by the commander of the prison, Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris.

The inquiry will probably look at whether procedures requiring guards to observe prisoners at least every two minutes were followed the night of the suicides. Until now, prison officials have voiced confidence that the safeguards were adequate, pointing to the fact that despite dozens of attempted suicides in the last four years, none had been successful. *NYT*

Tax on text messages? No, EU howls

PARIS—A FRENCH MEMBER OF THE EUROpean Parliament, Alain Lamassoure, recently uttered the dreaded T-word—taxes—in connection with e-mail and mobile phone text messages, and in so doing earned the wrath of the Internet generation.

No matter how remote the possibility may be—or how useful such taxes might be in financing the European Union budget—the mere mention of taxing messages was enough to ignite the blogosphere and industry lobbying groups.

Lamassoure raised the option of a Europewide tax on e-mail and text messages last month in a meeting on ways to finance the European Union's rising costs. As indignant missives filled the message board on Lamassoure's website, he distanced himself from the proposal, saying he had mentioned the idea only as a topic for discussion, not as something he supported.

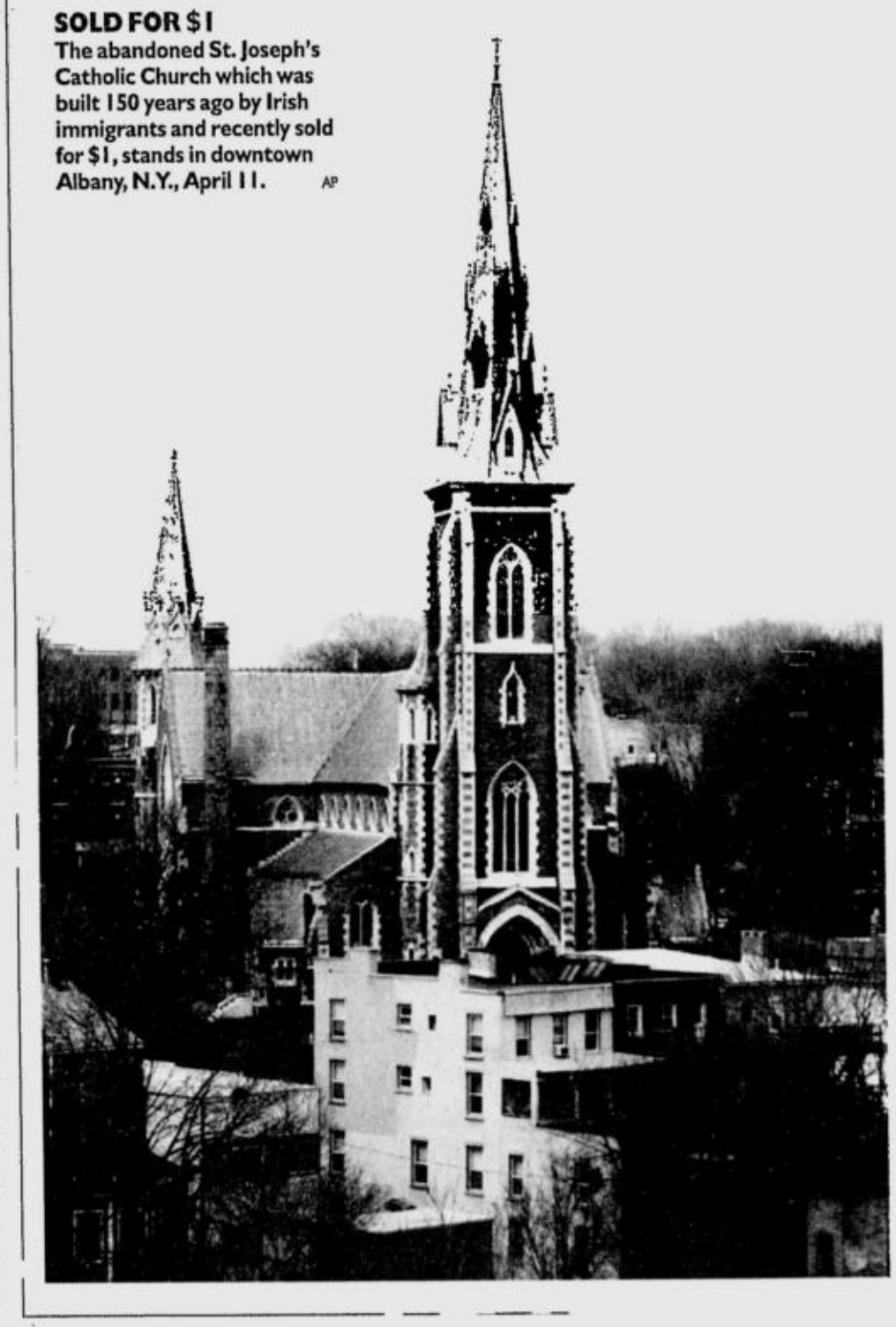
Any new tax could not move ahead without approval from all of the European Union's 25 national legislatures, and a message tax in particular is not even at the stage of a formal proposal. Still, some politicians and technology experts say the debate could serve to highlight imbalances between casual users and Internet hogs.

West Europeans spent a total of about 15 billion euros, or $19 billion, sending 157 billion phone text messages in 2005, according to Thomas Husson, a Paris-based mobile phone analyst at Jupiter Research. International Data Corp. has estimated that the number of daily e-mails sent in 2006—including the 40 percent that are spam—will exceed 60 billion a day worldwide, up from 31 billion in 2002.

Phone companies and Internet service providers, the companies that would be most affected by a message tax, have reacted harshly as well.

Yet some in the technology industry say Internet costs are no longer divided equitably among users. Heavy users typically pay the same monthly price as light ones. *NYT*

SOLD FOR $1
The abandoned St. Joseph's Catholic Church which was built 150 years ago by Irish immigrants and recently sold for $1, stands in downtown Albany, N.Y., April 11. AP



Court to decide if US eavesdropping legal

NEW YORK—THE NATIONAL Security Agency's domestic spying program faces its first legal challenge in a case that could decide if the White House can order eavesdropping without a court order.

Oral arguments are set for Monday at US District Court in Detroit at which the American Civil Liberties Union will ask Judge Anna Diggs Taylor to declare the spying unconstitutional and order it halted.

The case goes to the heart of the larger national debate about whether US President George W. Bush has assumed too much power in his declared war on terrorism.

Bush said he authorized NSA intercepts soon after the Sept. 11 attacks, allowing the NSA to monitor the international phone calls and e-mails of US citizens without first obtaining warrants if in pursuit of al-Qaida suspects.

The ACLU sued the NSA on behalf of scholars, journalists and attorneys, claiming that warrantless wiretaps violate the US Constitution and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, or FISA.

"The NSA has the capability of eavesdropping on anyone, anywhere, anytime," said James Bamford, an NSA expert and author who is supporting the ACLU suit.

Justice department lawyers have asked the judge to dismiss the suit because it would reveal state secrets.

Regardless of how the judge rules on state secrets, the government lawyers say Congress granted Bush surveillance privileges by authorizing the use of force against al-Qaida following the Sept. 11 attacks, and that he has the inherent right to order the wiretaps under presidential war powers.

"That is a total misunderstanding of the way the separation of powers are supposed to work in our democracy," said Ann Beeson, the lead ACLU lawyer in the case.

"It is very clear that when the framers (of the Constitution) set up the three branches of government they gave Congress the power to regulate what the president can do even during wartime and emergencies. If they hadn't done that we'd be back to the days of King George III," she said.

Some Republicans, including Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specterm differ with the White House and maintain the post-Sept. 11 authorization of the use of force did not alter FISA.

The committee is considering several bills that would either tighten or loosen congressional oversight of the NSA.

Specter said on Sunday that if talks with the White House on surveillance legislation did not resolve his concerns, he would again seek to subpoena executives from telecommunications companies to testify about their possible involvement.

"If the talks aren't productive, I'm prepared to go back to the hearings and I'm prepared to go back to the subpoenas if necessary," he said on CNN's "Late Edition." Last week, Specter backed off trying to issue subpoenas when Vice President Dick Cheney lobbied Republicans to oppose that effort. *Reuters*

Nepal king stripped of right to veto laws

KATMANDU—NEPAL'S PARLIAMENT IN A unanimous vote has stripped King Gyanendra of his right to veto laws in a move that formally makes him a ceremonial monarch, an official notice said Sunday.

The law, passed by an interim government that came to power in April when King Gyanendra bowed to popular protests and ceded absolute power, was passed late Saturday, according to a parliament notice published Sunday.

"Now the king's role is totally ceremonial," Raghuji Panta, a member of parliament from Nepal's second largest party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) told AFP.

Parliament made a proclamation in May that drastically clipped the king's authority and Saturday's regulation formally scrapped his right to reject bills and laws passed by parliament, according to a senior legislative member.

"With the approval of the regulation, a new rule has been made that full executive power of the state is centered on the council of ministers and the house holds legislative power," Subash Nemwang, the speaker in the lower house of representatives, told AFP.

In addition to losing legislative veto power, the king no longer has control of the 90,000-strong Nepal Army nor can he choose an heir to the throne.

The king was forced from power after protests organized by political parties in concert with Maoist rebels who opposed his seizure of power on Feb. 1, 2005.

The parties and rebels have since observed a ceasefire and the government has met a key rebel demand, for elections to an assembly that will redraft Nepal's constitution.

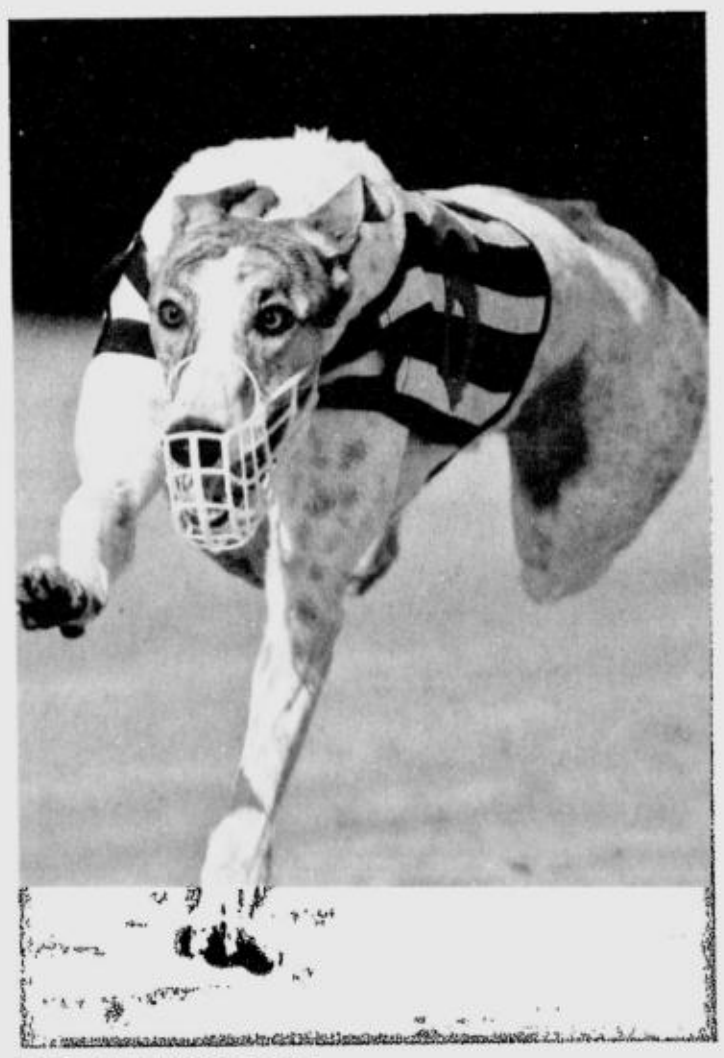
But the rebels want the government to move faster, including dissolving parliament and forming a new interim government that includes them.

"At a time when we have been stressing the dissolution of the present house, all its regulations and announcements are meaningless," Maoist spokesperson Krishna Bahadur Mahara told AFP.

"Though some of the points of the regulation are positive, it shows that the parties through their hasty decisions are running away from the major agenda of establishing peace in the country."

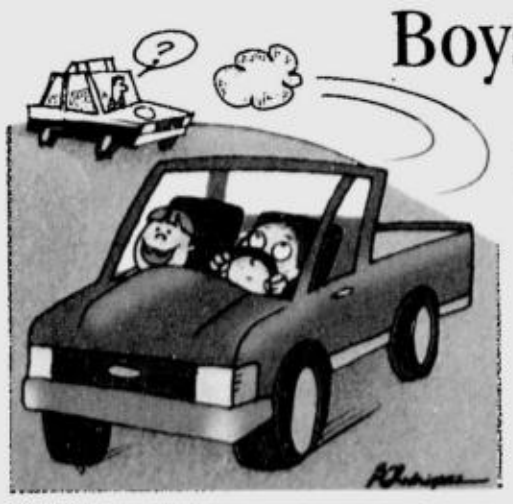
A political analyst said the regulation now needed to be followed in a new constitution.

The 1990 constitution ended the absolute monarchy and ushered in parliamentary democracy but gave the king the power to veto laws. The monarch had also retained supreme command of the army. *AFP*



REAL RUNNING DOG
A greyhound competes during the Greyhound World Championship in Rabapatona, 140 km west of Budapest, June 11. REUTERS

Boys, 10 and 6, drive to grandma's



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY who was picked up by police as he drove his younger brother along a busy Australian highway to visit their grandmother has escaped with a warning.

Shocked motorists reported seeing the boy at the wheel of a station wagon as it traveled at speeds of up to 90 kph on one of the main roads between New South Wales and Queensland states on Saturday, police said.

Police said the boys had decided to drive the roughly 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the house where their grandmother was staying in the town of Moree to their grandfather's place in Boggabilla in northern New South Wales.

They had traveled about 80 kilometers (50 miles) before police caught up with them and signaled for them to pull over, at which point the boy calmly brought the car to a stop at the side of the road, the Sydney Morning Herald reported on its website.

The boys were taken to a nearby police station and their grandfather was called to pick them up, Moree Sgt. Matt Clifford told the paper.

Clifford said the children showed no sign they had done anything wrong. The 10-year-old was given a warning from police, but further punishment would be left to the family, he said. *AP*

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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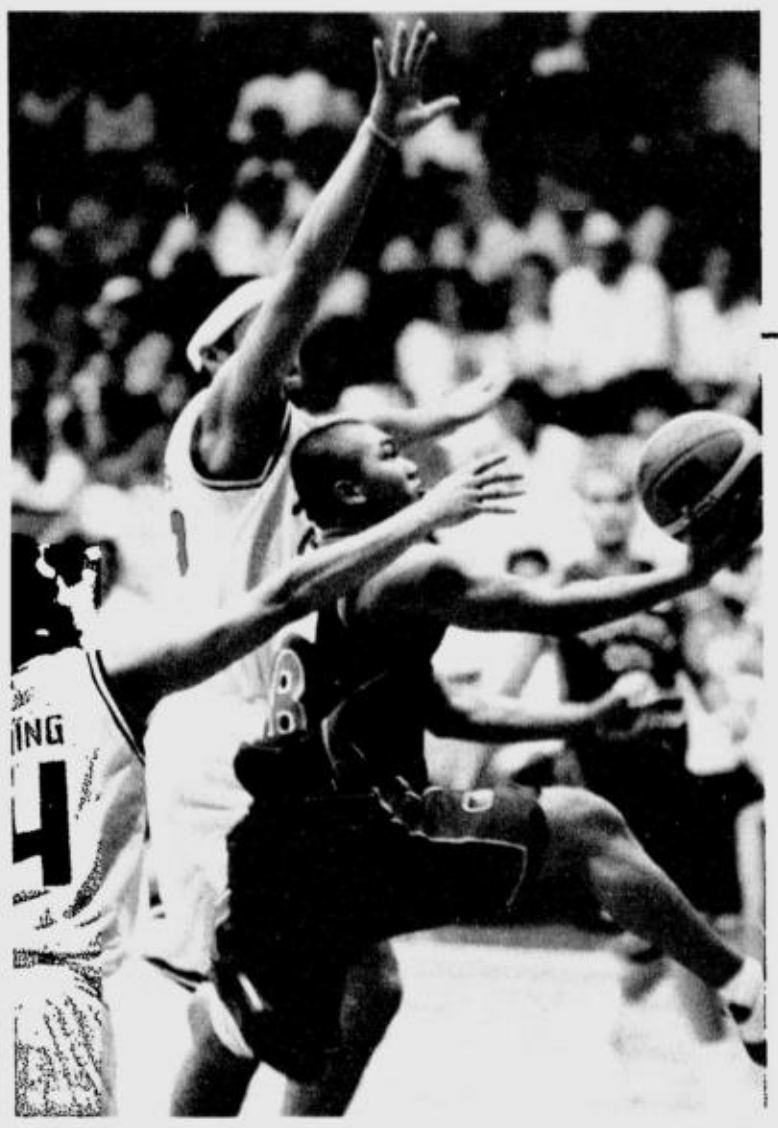


BOYET Bautista of Toyota Otis slips past Rob Reyes and Gec Chia of Harbour Centre in Game 2 of the PBL championships at the Olivarez Sports Center. ROMY HOMILLADA

Harbour Centre slight pick in Game 3 today

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN HARBOUR CENTRE'S TOP GUNS FINALLY GOT GOING, coach Louie Alas knew his Toyota Otis had a problem.

Thus, stopping Joseph Yeo, LA Tenorio and Chico Lanete will be the prime concern of the Toyota Sparks today when they clash against the Portmasters in Game 3 of the PBL Unity Cup Finals at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

"It's okay even if their other players deliver, so long as it's not those three players," said Alas. "We have to contain them. We'll be having a hard time if they always finish in double figures."

Yeo unloaded 25 points, Tenorio added 16 and Lanete had 14 as the Portmasters tied the best-of-five title series with a 78-63 victory.

"I told (Yeo and Tenorio) that this is the last time I'm going to coach them since they're going to the pros already, so they have to step it up," said Harbour Centre coach Jorge Gallent.

Although the backcourt trio carried most of the scoring load, Gallent said the rebounding and defensive contributions of big men Rob Reyes, Rico Maierhoffer and Chad Alonzo also keyed the win.

GAME TODAY *(Olivarez Sports Center)*
3 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Harbour Centre

"If we don't play as a team against Toyota, we won't be able to beat them," noted Gallent. "I think we've been sharing the ball well."

For Alas, the Sparks also have to step it up at the defensive end as in their 68-51 Game 1 triumph last Thursday.

"We gave up 70-plus points, that's too much," he said. "It was the first time in five games. We always try to limit our opponents below 60 points."

And unlike the Sparks' balanced charge in the series opener, only Aaron Aban and Boyet Bautista hit the mark in Game 2.

Joe Devance, just minutes after bagging the Most Valuable Player plum, shot only six points in a woeful 2-of-16 shooting.

Tee, Lao capture Youth Masters

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES' MARKWIN Tee recovered from a shaky start to trounce Korean challenger Wong Jong Yoon even as Angeli Lao lorded it over the mostly local field yesterday to capture the men's and ladies' Youth Masters titles of the 35th PBC-Boysen International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Green Valley.

The 22-year-old Southeast Asian Games Masters champion Tee regained his bearings after a 170 in the second game, pulling off the win by rolling with enough consistency to finish with a 2345 total and a 235 pinfall average.

He edged Won, who had a 2294 aggregate for a 229 average.

"I didn't have a nice feel of the lanes in the early games and I needed to warm up first," said Tee, who also avenged his first-round loss to Won during last month's ABF Tour Thailand championships.

Tee's remarkable performance was highlighted by 11 strikes in the 9th game where he padded his lead after posting a 279, while the Korean scored 248.

The Ateneo graduate, who last October topped the 8th PBAP Bevida-Storm international classic, had a five-bagger, a spare and another six-pack in the ninth game before finishing off his foe with a 231 as Won finished with a 202 to end up 51 pins behind.

Showing the spunk that enabled him to upset Singaporean Remy Ong during the 2005 SEAG, Tee rolled lines of 234-170-268-225-213-268-233-224-279-231 to clinch the title over the Korean, who had a series of 227-218-256-243-229-22-231-228-248-202.

Ian Dychangco bagged third place with a 2222 total for a 222 average, while JC Tupaz (2188) and J. Em Ang (2101) clinched fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Lao averaged 214 on a 2136 total to beat Marjo Reyes in the ladies' side. Reyes had 2087 (209), while Holly Josef dished out 1949 (195) to finish second and third, respectively, in the division that featured the country's most promising female bowlers.

The Thais started to make their presence felt as Thai Open runner-up Surasak Manuwong barged into the foreign field of the men's Class 0 Masters qualifying with a four-game total of 992 pinfalls that bettered top local qualifier Tyrone Ongpauco's 986.

His countryman, 23-year-old Yannaphon Larpapharat, tallied 991 and stayed in second place of the overseas pool, pacing another Thai Sithiphol Kunaksorn (938).

Orcollo pockets Reno title

Ends up ₱6 million richer

FILIPINO DENNIS ORCOLLO held off the United States' Kim Davenport, 9-8, to rule the prestigious 2006 Reno Open at the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno, Nevada, over the weekend.

Dubbed as "RP money-game King," Orcollo earned a hefty $12,500 (about P640,000) for mastering the Oklahoman for the second straight time. Davenport, meanwhile, settled for the runner-up prize of $7,500.

After getting a bye in the first round, Orcollo defeated Todd Chapman (9-3), Corey Deuel (9-5), Tom Seymour (9-1), Tim Hall (9-5), Riche Geiler (9-3), Bill Ganne (9-8) and Davenport (9-1), to earn a place in the hot-seat match.

The 50-year-old Davenport, the 1990 and 1997 winner here, dropped to the loser's bracket after the first loss to Orcollo, neading to pound out a gut-wrenching 9-7 win over Jui Lung Chen to earn a second crack at Orcollo.

Davenport, the 1990 Player of the Year, actually scored a come-from-behind 9-7 victory over Orcollo to forge the rubber match.

The Filipino, being groomed to be next world champion, had an 8-7 lead but scratched on the break. Davenport then won the next two racks with before having no shot at the one-ball on his break on the 17th and final rack.

Davenport pushed out to a long straight shot on the one and Orcollo took advantage with a slow rolling shot followed by a dicey table run to earn the 9-8 victory.

ORCOLLO: On target

"I feel so blessed and thankful to God for winning this very prestigious tournament," Orcollo, who also thanked benefactor Perry Mariano, said in Filipino.

Orcollo won three major titles in in a four-week span making up his US debut earlier in the year, including the tough International Pool Tour (IPT) Qualification Tournament.

He also beat Canada-based Pinoy Edwin Montal, 5-1, in the 2006 US Bar Box 8-Ball Championship last March also held here.

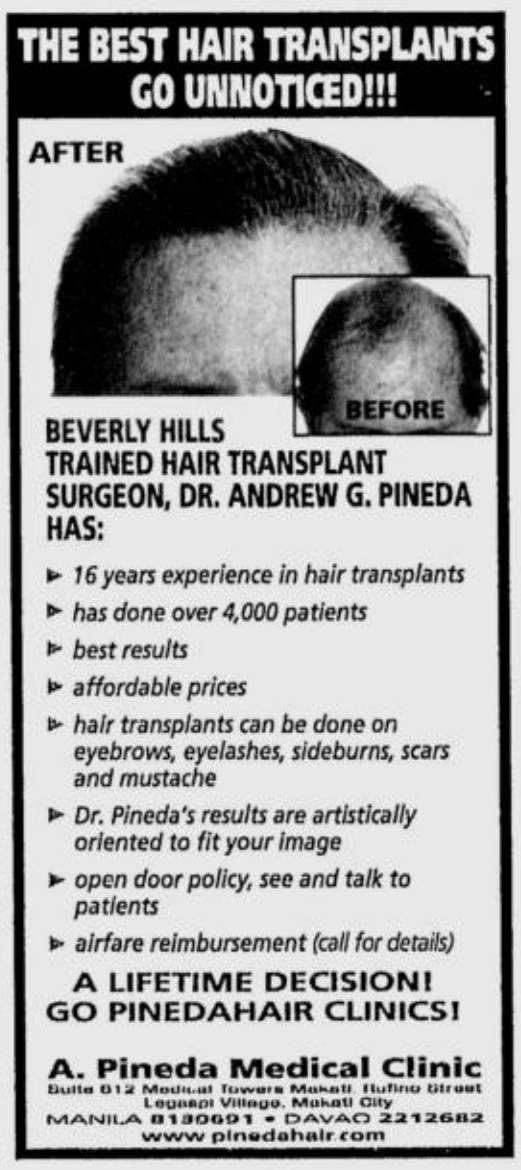
Aside from Orcollo, Montal, Valle and Kiamco, other Filipino cue masters who saw action in this annual event where Jose "Amang" Parica and Deomark Alpajora, now both residing in California. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

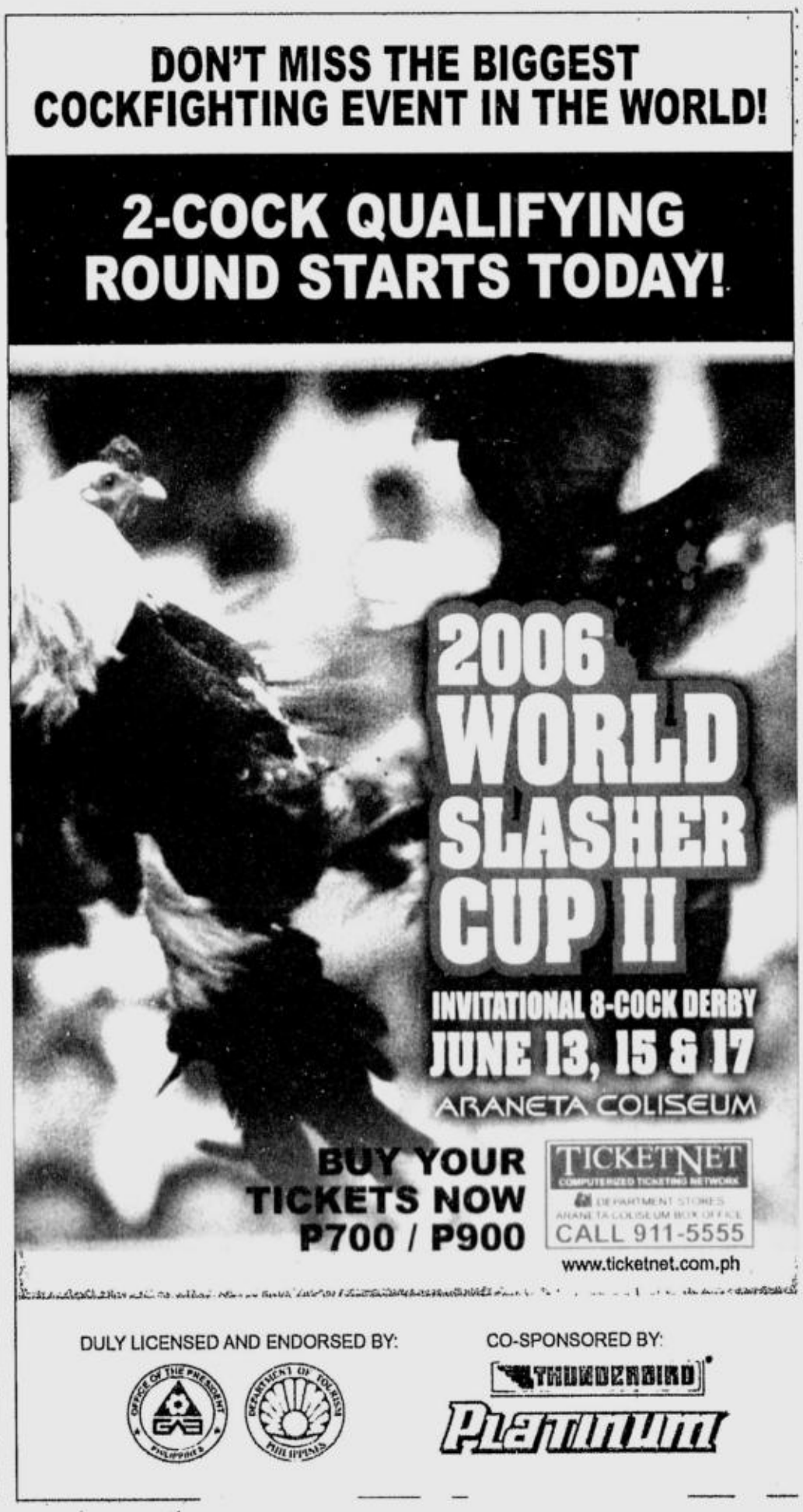
Escaner stops Japanese

PHILIPPINE SUPER BANTAMweight champion Alex Escaner displayed his power with a devastating fourth-round stoppage of Japanese Kenji Yoshimura Sunday at the IMP Hall in Osaka, Japan.

Escaner, a native of Libac, Sultan Kudarat, finished off Yoshimura with bone-crushing blows, stopping the latter at the 1:48 mark of the fourth frame.

The Filipino, according to Japan's boxing guru Joe Koizumi, was trailing on points in the first three rounds, but suddenly exploded with combinations to drop his foe twice in the fatal round. *Salven L. Lagumbay*





Torre 7th; So, Laylo get IM results

TORRE: Fighting finish

ASIA'S FIRST GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre booked a top 10 finish and three other Filipinos gained International Master results Sunday in the 148-man second San Marino International Chess Open at the Kursaal Congress Center in Republic of San Marino.

The 26th-seeded Torre drew his ninth and final round match against top seeded GM Sergei Tiviakov of the Netherlands using the black pieces after 47 moves of an Owens Defense to score 6.5 points and finish in a tie for fourth to 11th places along with Tiviakov, GM Jaan Ehlvest of Estonia, GM Levan Pantsulaia of Georgia, GM Nenad Sulava of Croatia, GM Vladimir Epishin of Russia, GM Yuriy Kuzubov of Ukraine and GM Ivan Ivanisevic of Serbia and Montenegro.

After the Bucholz tiebreak was applied, the long-time Philippine team vanguard Torre, who notched a tournament performance rating of 2612, was ranked seventh.

Earning IM results were Wesley So, 12, of Bacoor, Cavite and two-time national champion Darwin Laylo, 26, of Lipa City, Batangas. So finished with 5.5 points while Laylo wound up with 4.5, according to RP Turin Olympiad men's head coach Samuel "Sammy" Estimo, incoming executive director of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

"All our players made a mark in San Mariano," Estimo said. "This shows that given a chance to play in strong international tournaments, Filipinos can excel and easily earn IM or GM norms and ELO rating points."

The country's top ranked player GM Mark Paragua halved the point with IM Bartlomiej Heberla of Poland using the black pieces to score 6 points, good for a tie for 12th to 27th place.

In other final results, So split the point with Italian top player GM Michele Godena while Dimakiling agreed to a friendly draw with compatriot NM Rolando Nolte. Laylo bowed to Romanian GM Mircea Parligras.

Adjudged category winners were So (5.5 points) for the top U-16 player; Nolte (5 points) for the top master class and Laylo (4.5) for the second master class.

Meanwhile, GM Vadim Milov of Switzerland finished with a better quotient of 43 points against the 41 of GM Varuzhan Akobian of the US to clinch the title.

Both finished with 7.5 points, half a point ahead of GM Merab Gagunashvili of Georgia who settled for third. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

La Salle keeps clean V-League semis record

GAMES TOMMOROW *(Blue Eagle Gym)*
12 n.n.—Adamson vs Lyceum
2 p.m.— FEU vs La Salle

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LA SALLE NEEDED A BIG FIRST-SET jolt to get back to its senses and put Adamson where it rightfully belongs even as San Sebastian walloped Far Eastern to snatch second place yesterday in the Shakey's V-League semifinals at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Lady Archers, who started out sluggishly, rallied for a 23-25, 25-16, 25-11, 25-22 victory over the Lady Falcons, who was bannered by power-smashing Cherry Rose Macatangay.

La Salle banked on the steady hands of Thai Jindarat Kanchana, Michelle Datuin and Desiree Hernandez to get back at Adamson with a vengeance and improve to 10-0 that practically assured the streaking Lady Archers of another finals appearance.

Macatangay had 27 points, 25 on kills, but they weren't enough to save the Lady Falcons from sinking to third place with a 6-4 record.

Meanwhile, Thai guest player Jaroensri Bualee imposed her might even as San Sebastian tripped Far Eastern, 25-23, 17-25, 25-20, 25-21, to storm to second place.

The tall and muscular Bualee connected from all angles to finish with 28 points as the Lady Stags posted their third straight win for a 7-4 slate. Bualee's output was the biggest by anyone this conference as she exploited the masterful setups of Ma. Therese Iratay, who had 41 excellent sets in 107 attempts.

More importantly, the 5-foot-9 Bualee has kept San Sebastian firmly in contention after the Lady Stags dropped their first three games in the eliminations.

The Lady Stags also got ample support from Rysabelle Devanadera and Laurence Ann Latigay, who chalked up 11 points each. Latigay also had 10 attack points as a perfect decoy for the Thai main gunner.

The Lady Tams stumbled to their second straight defeat for a 5-5 record.

VOLLEY MASTERS
Brazilian Sheilla Castro fails to block Chinese Hao Yang in their final game at the Montreux Volley Masters tournament Sunday. Brazil won the final match. AP

Jewelers capture MVBA crown via sweep of GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu Jewelers displayed awesome form to put away PacMan-GenSan, 93-80, on Sunday and become the very first champions of the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao-Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) at the packed and noisy General Santos City Gym.

A 20-4 run midway in the final quarter turned a 65-68 deficit into an 85-72 lead and the Jewelers never looked back after that for a 3-0 sweep of PacMan-GenSan.

The guard tandem of Mike Manigo and Finals Most Valuable Player Woodrow Enriquez presided upon that run and eventually combined for 22 fourth quarter points. The Jewelers outscored PacMan, 31-17, in the final canto.

It was a sorry loss for PacMan of boxing idol Manny Pacquiao and Coach Ramon Pido, after they controlled the first half, 48-37, behind the exploits of Jaypee Locsin, Louie Medalla, Donald Tadena and Apol Coronado.

The Jewelers made their move in the third period thanks to a 13-2 run sparked and capped by skipper Danny Aying triples that gave the Jewelers their first taste of the lead since 4-2.

Enriquez, son of former PBA player and M. Lhuillier assistant coach Alfredo Enriquez, exploded for a series-high 28 points, including 15 in the fourth quarter.

Manigo chipped in with 16 while three other Jewelers knocked in twin figures with Aying shooting 13 and Jayford Rodriguez and Aldrin Ocanada finishing with 11 each.

Locsin, Coronado and Weng Farochillen paced PacMan with 15 markers each. Tadena added 11.

"I want to thank our team owner Michel Lhuillier for believing in the concept of this league," said winning Coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba, immediately after being given the traditional victory ride by his players. "I hope more local governments in partnership with the private sector will join the next MVBA conference in September."

M. Lhuillier simply overpowered their opponents, taking Game 1 (101-91) and 2 (92-81) last week at the New Cebu City Coliseum. Overall, the Jewelers lost only once in the four-month tournament—an 83-89 decision in Game One of the best-of-three Visayas Division Finals against Cebu Landmaster-Toledo last May 31.

The Scores:

M. LHUILLIER-CEBU 93—Enriquez 28, Manigo 16, Aying 13, Rodriguez 11, Ocanada 11, Llanto 7, Ramirez 5, Plodo 2, Tangarorang 0, Caputolan 0.

PACMAN-GENSAN 80—Farochillen 15, Locsin 15, Coronado 15, Tadena 11, Medalla 7, Dennison 5, Sandoval 4, Jabagat 4, Cabanlit 2, Recustodio 2

Quarters: 15-23, 37-48, 63-63, 93-80.

Mendoza upsets Olivarez in Copa tennis

UNRANKED JURENCE MENDOZA ousted second seed Eric Olivarez Jr., 6-1, 6-1, yesterday to reach the unisex 10-under quarterfinals of the 7th Copa de Manila Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Mendoza, eyeing his third straight title after the Olivarez Cup and Head Penn-Manila, will next face seventh seed Martin Rafael Opulencia, who scored a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Joel Atienza.

In other matches, top seed Mark Escares rallied past Isabel Orteza, 6-0, 4-6, (10-6), to advance against No. 8 Brysl Libao, a 6-2, 6-0 winner over Jacob Echague, while fourth seed Joachim Samson defeated Patricia Nicole Paez, 6-2, 6-0, to advance against fifth seed Bruce Ivan Valenzuela, who beat Zainul Burahan, 6-1, 6-1.

Unseeded Jeremiah Latorre survived Katrina Orteza, 7-5, 7-6 (4), to advance against No. 6 Juan Rodrigo, who got a free ride to the quarterfinals with the no-show of Sean Hernandez an CJ Angeles.

In the girls' 18-under division, Angelica Macatangay struggled past Danielle Hallare, 6-3, 3-6, (10-7), Gelene Dimaculangan outlasted Claudine Cruz, 6-2, 2-6, (10-7), and Roxanne Bautista beat Ma. Nica Sasil, 6-1, 6-2, to join top seeds Bien Zoleta, Trudy Gine Amoranto, Ivy de Castro and Martina Rivero in the next round.

Second-round winners in the girls' 14-under were Liz Magaway over Samantha Coyiuto, 7-6 (4), 6-0, Jasmine Tan Ho over Enah Baba, 6-1, 6-4, Shannin Mae Olivarez over Ma. Aura Opulencia, 6-0, 6-1, and Rachel Lucero over Ma. Elizabeth Flores, 6-0, 6-0 while booking third-round berths in the boys' 12-under were Brysl Libao, Bruce Ivan Valenzuela, Jorel Vincent Buenaflor, Zainul Burahan, Miggy Mangabat and Rafael Squillantini.

Youth active chess leg June 24-25

THE SHELL National Youth Active Chess Championship gets underway June 24-25 with the staging of the National Capitol Region (NCR) leg featuring a banner field vying for top honors in the kiddies and juniors divisions at SM City Manila. Registration for the kick-off leg of the eight-stage circuit sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation is ongoing and will end June 17. Entry fee is P50 with the field limited to the first 500 registrants. For details, contact chief coordinator Alex Dinoy (744-1664 or 0916-5146384).

Hop in for a Hopkins lesson

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I PICKED A D-D CONFRONTATION: Dallas-Detroit.

I came out right with Dallas, the Mavericks defeating the 2005 champions San Antonio Spurs for the Western Conference championship.

Loren Manguiat of Star Sports had dreaded that to happen, the way Cinderella cursed the onset of midnight—the reason being that Loren is a Steve Nash fan.

Detroit lost to Miami in the Eastern Conference Finals. And Loren liked that very much, the reason being that he adored Dwyanne Wade.

The slug-it-out Pistons got clobbered by the colossal Shaquille O'Neal, who got tremendous help from the wonder-fluids-powered, dehydration-defying Dwyane Wade in pushing the Miami franchise to a first ever NBA Final in 18 years.

I'm sure Loren is cringing right now as Miami trails Dallas 0-2 in the NBA Finals following the Mavs' 99-85 victory yesterday in Dallas. If he is, I can't blame him.

The colossus was a collapse, totally, in Game 1, when O'Neal collared himself to oblivion—even missing 8 of 9 free throws. An 8th-grader would have done better from the line.

In Game 2, O'Neal oh so sewed himself up again for a no-show.

You don't have the hustle and bustle of a 300-pound wrecking crew, you are doomed. Wrecked. Beat. Dead.

* * *

I'm not sure now if Loren picked Orlando's Antonio Tarver over Pennsylvania's Bernard Hopkins on Sunday.

I went to Hopkins, the reason being that ever since Hopkins knocked out Felix Trinidad, I seemed to have been hooked on him for life.

I had predicted Hopkins to defeat Trinidad and nobody believed me.

The experts said Trinidad was at the peak of his career then and Hopkins was old hat.

After Trinidad got kayoed, the Puerto Rican retired.

Again, I predicted Hopkins to defeat Oscar de la Hoya and nobody believed me.

The experts said De La Hoya was simply too flashy and can't be hit by an old man. Yes, they said—again—that Hopkins was old hat.

Hopkins knocked De La Hoya out with one body blow in the 8th.

De La Hoya did not retire but admitted Hopkins was the only fighter that "hit me that hard."

And Hopkins was already 38, 39, then?

OK, I'm not perfect. But who is?

Hopkins lost twice to Jermaine Taylor, my prediction for a Hopkins win in their second fight turning out to be a dud.

But on Sunday, at 41, Hopkins became the new light heavyweight champion of the world of the IBO, dethroning the totally outclassed Antonio Tarver by a unanimous decision.

On Sunday, Hopkins didn't come to fight. He came to school. Not to learn but to teach. By the end of the class, Hopkins never appeared tired and he sure looked he could go 12 more rounds.

He was light as a feather all throughout, nimble like a cat, and, as the last bell neared, he even did an Ali shuffle.

In the 5th, Hopkins staggered Tarver with a straight right hand. Tarver's left glove touched the canvas and that was ruled a knockdown.

It was a fitting, dramatic ending to a checkered, if not colorful, career for Hopkins, who said that with his 47th win in 52 fights, he was retiring after 18 years of fighting—10 of those as the world middleweight champion with a stunning string of 20 title defenses.

Before turning pro at 23, Hopkins served 4-1/2 years behind bars as a young man. It was while in prison that he discovered boxing as his path to a good, reformed life.

It was in Atlantic City, the gambling capital of New York, where Hopkins had his first professional fight—losing a four-round majority decision to Clinton McNeil.

Ironically, he fought then as a light-heavyweight.

"I'm going right back to Atlantic City, where I started my career in 1988 in light heavyweight," said Hopkins before Sunday's fight. "And now, I'm going right back to Atlantic City, where I started and where I will end it as a light heavyweight. It is profound how my life has been."

I can't think of any boxer in the modern era so old and yet so good like Hopkins.

"I always had to always say to myself, 'If I survive, which I have, that the life lessons of being ignorant by my doing, life, boxing to me is something that I can handle.'"

Give credit to the guy. The new light heavyweight champion of the world reigns for only a single day. Just one day.

I wish many more boxers would learn from him.

* * *

Send comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

SPORTSWATCH

World Slasher kicks off today

THE WORLD Slasher Cup II 8-Cock Invitational Derby, hits the limelight starting at 2 p.m. today with more than 70 local and 20 foreign participants at the Araneta Coliseum. The three-day event is sponsored by Thunderbird Platinum. Endorsed by Tourism Secretary Ace Durano as a "must-see event," the derby will also be held on June 15 and 17. Leading the foreign visitors is Johnny Philips of Georgia, one of the toughest gamefowl breeders from America. Joining Philips are Roger Roberts also of Georgia, Jorge Torres of California, O.W. Lanier from Mississippi, Jay Gentry from L.A. California, Kurt Langson from Arkansas, Speedy Gonzales of California, Joe Stanfield of California, Grady Malone of Alabama, Kurt Langston and Jorge Torres of California. Seeing action for Hawaii are the Casco brothers (Casey, Kali and Bobby), Andy Topinio, Danny Pajaron and Matt Pasamonte. Guam is represented by Mar Gatmaitan and Homer Capitolo. The home team will rely on Sonny Lagon and his Blue Blade Sweaters; Cong. Ompong Plaza with his Radio crosses and reigning World Slasher Cup champion Dicky Lim with his lemon-crosses.

Fastest Win event set at SJC

THE FASTEST Win-One Cock Ulutan, now a regular event at San Juan Coliseum, resumes on Saturday with some 50 fights expected. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Sam Mendoza of Rizal, former operator of Cainta Coliseum, and Ronnie Lacsina of United Backyard Breeders Association will host the event with an entry fee of P2,200. Mendoza said a fastest win champion will be chosen every five fights and will receive a jackpot prize of P15,000. The second placer gets P5,000. Meanwhile, the UBBA 3-cock derby is set at SJC on July 1. For details, call 725 -5369 and 725 -6563 or 0917-8041691 (Ronnie).

Sta. Ana Cockpit holds 60 fights

SIXTY nonstop fights are scheduled tonight at Sta. Ana Cockpit (A.P. Reyes Avenue, Makati City) via the special 3-cock derby that dangles a guaranteed prize of P150,000. Host Rey Cabial, who invited 40 cockers and breeders of Metro Manila, pegged the entry fee at P5,500. For details, call the Sta. Ana Cockpit at 898-3474 and 898-3475. Two more 3-cock derbies are slated on June 20 (Cito Manansala) and June 27 (Nelson Pacquiao). Meanwhile, pit manager Butchoy Olano announced that P300,000 in total prizes await the winners in the Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan on July 1. Entry fee is P2,200.

TABLE TENNIS TILT: (Left) Charlie Lim, president of Filipino-Chinese Table Tennis Club of North District) trades shot with Arturo Go, president of Green Paddle Table Tennis Center, in a ceremonial game during the opening of the Uniwoodply 2nd Green Paddle Table Tennis Classification Cup in Caloocan City. (Standing): Philip Uy, international referee Rachel Ramos, Joey Sy, Johnny Sy Balondo (president of Celebrity Sports Club Table Tennis Division) and Peter Uy.

Spring Oil joining Bahrain tilt

MULTI-TITLED AMATEUR BASKETBALL club Spring Cooking Oil flies to Bahrain on board Qatar Airways today to compete in the 4th Bahrain-Philippines Goodwill Games on June 15-18.

"The boys are in high spirits," team owner and national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla said yesterday after hosting a send-off party.

The back-to-back PICAA Open champion Cooking Oil Masters will be bannered by ex-professionals Chito Victolero and Danny Capobres.

Other members of the team are Aldrin Morante, Nani Epondulan, Mar Reyes, Rodel Manuel, Gilbert Neo and Marvin Yambao.

Spring will be coached by Efren "Yong" Garcia, who steered the Cooking Oil Masters to top spot in the northern division of the ongoing 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national championship.

Spring Cooking Oil is also being backed by Parañaque Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana.

"I am looking forward to a good showing by the boys, especially before our *kababayans* there," said Padilla.

Organized by the Bahrain Basketball Association, the goodwill tournament will also feature Bahrain's national team, the US Navy squad based in Bahrain composed of former American collegiate players and ex-pros and a selection from the Filipino community.

Padilla is also the president of the National Basketball Conference.

NATHANIEL "Tac" Padilla (sixth from right, standing) with Spring Oil team members Marvin Yambao, Mar Reyes, Manu Iñigo, Jeff Cuenca, Aldrin Morante, Chris Lagazo, Nani Epondulan, Patrick Tiongco, Eddie Soriano, Chris Ollano, Aries de Castro, Larry Rodriguez, coach Efren Garcia, Gilbert Neo, Danny Capobres, Rodel Manuel, Mark Yee, Marvin Ortiguerra and Bambi Barnson.

Briton, Peña top Sy rivals in AF3 races

ASIDE FROM KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON fellow racing star Dado Peña, Tyson Sy will also cast a wary look at Briton Dilon Battistini when rounds 4 to 6 of the Asian Formula Three series are held this weekend at the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guandong, China.

Battistini is running second in the chase for the overall driver's championship with 33 points anchored on two second place finishes in the first three rounds last month at the Batangas Racing Circuit, despite the fact that the JA Motorsports newcomer raced for the first time at the technically demanding Batangas circuit.

This has not escaped the attention of Sy, 18, the lead driver of Speedtech Asia, who was amazed by the driving prowess displayed by the 28-year-old Briton who rose from the ranks of British karting.

"He (Battistini) came up with a solid performance despite the fact that he was driving his car for the first time. I wonder what he can do once he gets used to that car," said Sy, who leads the standings with 60 points after sweeping the first three rounds.

Despite Battistini's solid debut, however, Sy is confident he can score big follow-up victories at the 4.3-kilometer Zhuhai circuit where premium is on speed and daring.

"I'm confident that I can win again. The field is tough but I have a few tricks left," said Sy, the only Filipino to break the foreign stranglehold of the series last year when he scored a golden double at the Sentul Circuit in Indonesia.

Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net and www.pldtmypad.net for regular updates on the Zhuhai races, starting with the practice runs on Thursday and Friday and the actual races this weekend.

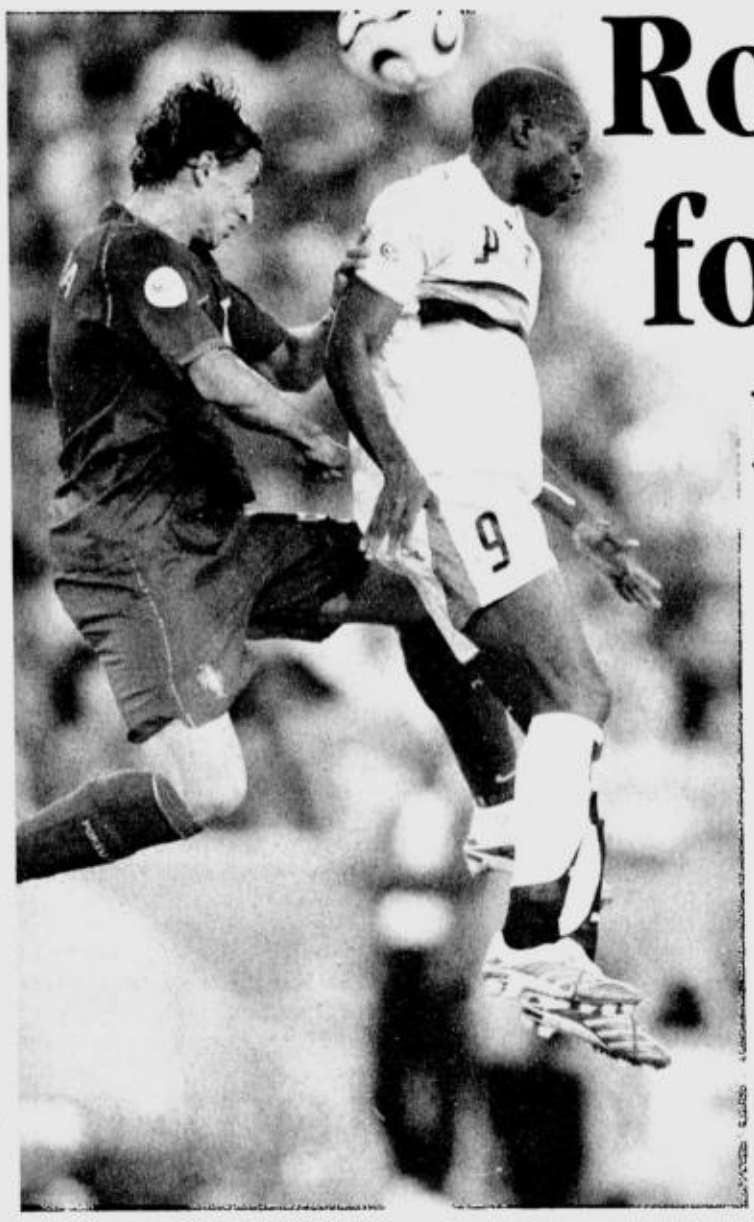
In his first race at Zhuhai last year, Sy failed to come out of the pit due to mechanical trouble but battled back to finish third despite starting at the back of the grid in the second race.

Sy will leave today for Zhuhai along with the rest of the Filipino contingent, confident that his powerful racing machine is the fastest in the field. He tested his car recently at BRC and was satisfied with his clockings.

"The car is fast but I can't be too overconfident," Sy said.

Robben delivers for Netherlands

Mexico, Portugal score



PORTUGUESE defender Nuno Valente (left) and Angolan forward Mantorras jump for the ball during the 2006 World Cup. Portugal won, 1-0. AFP

BERLIN—ARJEN ROBBEN HAS an old-looking head on young shoulders.

His maturity despite his 22 years shone through Sunday when the Netherlands opened its World Cup campaign with a 1-0 victory over Serbia-Montenegro—and Robben scored the only goal.

Prematurely balding, the Chelsea winger showed slid Robin van Persie's pass into the net in front of a 43,000-strong crowd at Leipzig's Zentral Stadion, half of which wore Orange shirts in support of their team.

Omar Bravo scored twice for Mexico in his team's 3-1 Group D win over Iran in Nuremberg.

Bravo turned quickly to score from close range in the 16th minute and added a second in the 76th after Iran had equalized.

Mexico's Brazilian-born striker Antonio Naelson, known as Zinha, headed in a third for Mexico in the 79th.

Later Sunday, Portugal beat Angola 1-0 in the other Group D match.

The Netherlands' win put it in first place along with Argentina in Group C, considered to be the toughest of the first round. Argentina beat Ivory Coast 2-1 Saturday.

"If half the stadium is orange again in Germany, you feel it is an honor again to play for your country. It is special to play," Netherlands captain Edwin van der Sar said.

Besides scoring the only goal, Robben was uncatchable under a scorching sun and made sure the opponents always had to keep plenty of people back. Little surprise he was chosen Man of the Match.

"I was lucky he was on our side today," Netherlands coach Marco van Basten said. "We always create a lot of chances but not a lot of goals."

Serbia's players were less than impressed by coach Ilija Petkovic's defensive tactics. Midfielder Ognjen Koroman called them "cowardly."

"I don't see any logic starting an opener at the World Cup with such a closed formation." Koroman said. "If we attacked them from the start, we could have scored. We also might have lost by several goals, but at least it wouldn't be in such a cowardly fashion."

In Nuremberg, about 1,200 German Jews and politicians protested Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's denial of the Nazi Holocaust as Iran kicked off against Mexico, declaring that he would be unwelcome at the tournament. *AP*

Ronaldo gets chance to show he's up to task

BERLIN—BRAZIL STRIKER RONaldo gets his first chance to show he is still up to the task as the world champions enter the fray against Croatia on Tuesday.

Brazil, unbeaten in their last 10 outings, have won their opening match at every World Cup since 1982 and are hot favorites to keep up their record in the Group F game.

"Ninety-nine percent of the world is saying Brazil are favorites. A draw would be a success," Croatia midfielder Igor Tudor told reporters after being named in the team on Sunday.

"It would be a sensation if we won." Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, with an embarrassing array of riches at his command, confidently named his starting lineup for the game on May 3 and included all his top names. They include the so-called Magic Quartet of Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Adriano and Kaka.

RONALDO

Croatia coach Zlatko Kranjcar, whose team got a 1-1 friendly draw with Brazil in Split last August, had no surprises up his sleeve with a team that includes Tudor in a five-man midfield.

If there is one player who needs to prove he still deserves his place it is Ronaldo. The 2002 World Cup's top scorer has had a frustrating season with Real Madrid, punctuated by minor injuries and deteriorating relationship with the fans. *Reuters*

JOVIE Saulog with the limited RP Flag edition of Honda XRM underbone bikes in the 2006 Honda Philippines Inc. annual convention at the Shangrila-Makati recently.

Saulog rides Honda XRM

MULTI-TITLED MOTOCROSS RIder Jovie Saulog rode the Limited Edition Honda XRM when it was unveiled by HPI president and general manager Kazuhiko Ikezoe at the Dealers' Convention recently at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

Ikezoe said the XRM special edition is a gesture to express HPI's gratitude to the Filipinos for making Honda XRM as the No. 1 selling motorcycle model in the Philippines.

Recent surveys showed that Honda XRM's are the best-selling model in underbone motorcycle in the Philippines.

"The undisputed success of Honda XRM is the main reason for our celebration in this annual convention," said Ikezoe. "This special edition with the color replicating the Philippine flag is our way of thanking the Filipino people for making us No. 1. Rest assured, we'll explore new and better technology to make Honda motorcycle riding safer, easier and environment-friendly."

Honda XRM crept into the mainstream of Filipino culture because of its durability and fuel efficiency. It can also be used on the road and off-road.

Vilog rules Alabang triathlon

By Jasmine W. Payo

AFTER A HUMBLING EXPERIence with the national team last year, veteran triathlete George Vilog has taken every race seriously.

Although all is well now, Vilog still made sure that he'd finish on top even in a less grueling sprint competition like the Ayala Alabang Triathlon Invitational last Sunday.

"I felt challenged," said the 29-year-old Vilog, who was suspended from the national team last year for disciplinary reasons.

Vilog, a national champion from 2002 to 2004, ruled the 750-meter swim, 27-km bike and 6-km run in one hour, 26 minutes and 48 seconds at the Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

But Vilog said that he's shifting his focus to duathlon after finishing fifth last April in the Asian Duathlon Championship in Pampanga.

In fact, a lot more has been going on for the reformed Vilog.

"I'm also working as a personal trainer for Pia Cayetano," said Vilog, adding that the sports-minded senator was also a finisher in the sprint race.

Junior national team members Mikki Quilala, LC Langit, Mimi Lucas and Joash Serrano also participated in the event as guest entries.

"This is just a tune-up race for us," said the 18-year-old Quilala, who will be competing in the Singapore International Triathlon on July 2.

Langit, meanwhile, will be leaving for the Asian Cup Triathlon in Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) Thursday.

Finishing over a minute behind Vilog in the sprint race was 44-year-old Rune Stroem, who bagged second place in 1:27:59.

Vilog finished 31 seconds ahead of Jay-Ar Obial in the swim leg at 12:01 minutes, and although Stroem closed in after negotiating the bike race in just 48:12 minutes, Vilog never felt threatened in the foot race.

The 22-year-old Obial secured third spot in 1:28:37. Jing Primne topped the women's sprint division in 1:55:37.

Irok stuns De La Salle

IROK FOOTBALL CLUB BROUGHT down defending women's champion La Salle, 6-3, even as the Superfriends and El Magistrado Football Clubs turned back their respective foes at the resumption of the 2006 adidas Futsal Championship at the FMAC Gym over the weekend.

El Magistrado downed the Archers, 7-4, for its first win in Group B of the men's second division, while Xavier Alumni slipped past the Philippine Marines, 5-4, in Group A of the same division.

Superfriends also made it to the win column after posting a 3-2 win over Kaya FC, while Vintage FC trounced University of Asia & the Pacific, 6-1, in the other women's match.

In the only other contest in the men's first division of the event sponsored by adidas and in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association, Pasargad and Philippine Navy fought to a 4-4 draw.

Marigen Ariel, Ria Tanjangco, Simonette Gaspay and Francine Ruffy scored a goal apiece for Irok.

Amonsot stakes crown July 22

WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION Asia Pacific super featherweight champion Czar Amonsot will put his title on the line on July 22 in front of his hometown fans in Tagbilaran City.

The southpaw, 20-year-old Amonsot, who has twice seen action in the United States this year, will be pitted against a credible foreign foe.

Now ranked WBO No. 7, Amonsot took the As-Pac title by impressively dethroning Indonesia's Victor Mausol late last year.

The July 22 title defense in Tagbilaran will be hosted by city mayor Dan Neri Lim, who is also the legal adviser of the ALA boys as well as a huge backer of boxing in the region.

Fil-Am Leon Panoncillo, who was recently appointed by WBO president Paco Valcarcel as WBO vice-president for Asia Pacific, said he is personally flying to Bohol to supervise the event.

The undercard will feature other top Boholano fighters, with Candijay's Along Denoy challenging RP junior flyweight boss Sonny Boy Jaro in a 12-round battle.

Denoy, who recently figured in a no-contest bout despite leading in the early rounds against Esau Gaona in Las Vegas, will see action in his first RP title crack against a formidable champion in Jaro, who took the title with a seventh-round stoppage over Larry Mede two years ago. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Leading Man (4), American Beauty (5), Romblon Rock (3), Danielle's Angel (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Reign Of Fire (6), Air Power (7), Playing Cool (2), Collective Dreams (1)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Odessey (4), Mercurian/Quasimodo (12), Mas Que Nada (8), Prince Aidan (9), Hurry Connection (10)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Western Legend (3), Interceptor (1), Truly Impressive (2), My Rabbonnie (6)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Spark (8), Sun Chaser (6), Superamerica (1), Asikarera De Mama (3), Suavelger (11)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—I Remain (9), Petro Dollar (5), Awesome Power (3), Wild Orphan (8), Lady Cathy (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Dona Nene (12), D A In Dixie (13), Easy Rider (2), Pamimsan mimsan (1), War Bird (7)
Race 8—(Super 6?Qrt/Tri)—Full Of Fury (12), Flaming Heart (6), Prime Enforcer (2), Pyramid Relaunch (8), Sharp Cookie (10), Dato's Pride (7)

Caoili wants to play for RP team again–Estimo

WOMAN INTERNATIONAL MASter Arianne Bo Caoili, who is now based in Brisbane, Australia, wants to play for the Philippines again.

And Turin Olympiad men's head coach Samuel "Sammy" Estimo, the incoming executive director of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), said this is possible as he cited the case of Fil-Canadian billiards ace Alex Pagulayan and Fil-American tennis star Cecil Mamiit.

Both Pagulayan and Mamiit won golds and helped the country rule the overall championship of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

"Arianne wants to play in the 2006 Doha Asian Games this coming December and other international events like the 2007 Thailand SEA Games and the 2008 Dresden World Chess Olympiad in Germany," said Estimo.

"But we should first discuss this in the NCFP Board and she should also hurdle the qualifying round, which she agreed to do," he added.

Arianne, who holds a dual citizenship like cue artist Alex Pagulayan, was the first World Under-10 Rapid champion in 1998 and the youngest Board 1 Olympiad lady player of the country at the age of 12 at the 2000 Istanbul Olympiad.

She played board 3 for Australia in the last Olympiad in Turin where she became the central figure in a punching incident involving two Grandmasters. *Marlon Bernardino*

CAOILI

SPORTS

Nadal rips Federer's grand slam bid apart

PARIS—RAFAEL NADAL ripped Roger Federer's grand slam dream apart at the seams on Sunday and the world number one had only himself to blame.

With a 1-6 6-1 6-4 7-6 victory over the Swiss in the French Open final, irrepressible Spaniard Rafael Nadal retained his title and became the first man to beat Federer in a grand slam final.

Nadal's 60th consecutive win on clay prevented Federer joining Rod Laver and Don Budge as the only men to hold all four grand slams at once, a feat that has not been achieved for 37 years.

Federer's quest to win that elusive claycourt grand slam goes on thanks to one of the worst displays of his career. The 24-year-old committed 51 unforced errors and by the end his backhand technique in particular was in tatters, bereft of timing and the source of free points for Nadal.

The Mallorcan, who also beat Federer in last year's semi-finals, slammed away a forehand volley to confirm a ragged victory.

FEDERER: Still a flop on clay. AP

He threw himself to the ground, with legs splayed and his hands covering his face, a Y-shaped emblem of triumph. Then he rolled around like an exuberant puppy in the dirt.

"It's incredible," said the 20-year-old.

"I was thinking about nothing. I didn't even realise I fell on the ground."

Last year Nadal earned his maiden grand slam success with victory over Argentine Mariano Puerta in the Roland Garros final but he said: "I think I prefer this year's title.

"Roger is the most incredible player that I know. I have never seen a more complete player."

On Sunday Federer looked far from that. Standing next to Nadal in the presentation ceremony, his loser's dish tucked under one arm, the Swiss was a picture of despondency.

"He deserved to win," said the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open champion. "Unfortunately, I didn't play the match that I wanted or that I hoped. I won the first set easily, and usually in a situation like that I don't let things go by.

"Obviously it's a pity but I will come back next year."

It was Federer's first defeat in eight grand slam finals and his status as the world best player is now under serious threat from Nadal. The Spaniard has won four finals against the Swiss this year and six of their seven encounters in total, including two on hardcourt.

The match was billed as history in the making but for long periods it was a forgettable stream of unforced errors.

Tennis is a non-contact sport but Nadal makes it feel like one. The Mallorcan has the presence of a claycourt colossus, with biceps like cannonballs and a venomous look in his eye. *Reuters*

SPAIN'S Rafael Nadal jubilates after winning a point against Swiss Roger Federer in the French tennis Open final. AFP

Mavs cool Heat for 2-0 lead

DIRK Nowitzki of Dallas grabs an unmolested rebound. REUTERS

DALLAS—THE DALLAS MAVERICKS TOOK A big step toward their first championship in franchise history when they handcuffed Shaquille O'Neal and crushed the Miami Heat 99-85 Sunday to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the NBA Finals.

Dallas is now primed to capture the title as only two teams have won the crown after losing the first two games, the 1969 Boston Celtics and the 1977 Portland Trail Blazers.

The best-of-seven series now shifts to the American Airlines Arena in Miami Tuesday for Game Three.

Dallas broke the game open with a 27-6 run the the final eight minutes of the first half to turn a 28-23 deficit into a comfortable 50-34 advantage at intermission.

"I thought our energy was great today," said forward Dirk Nowitzki, who led the Mavericks with 26 points and 16 rebounds.

"We were really hustling on defense but offensively we moved the ball to the open guy and really shared the ball well."

After taking only 11 shots and scoring just 17 points in the series opener, Miami's 7-foot-1, 330-pound center Shaquille O'Neal vowed to be more productive in Game Two.

But the 34-year-old 14-time All-Star was harassed by several Mavericks at every turn and finished with a playoff-career low five points on two of five shooting from the floor and one of seven from the line.

"Yes, we need to get him the basketball," said Heat coach Pat Riley. "But this game was about another team's competitiveness and energy at the start of the game."

Reserve guard Jerry Stackhouse hit two three-point shots and one four-point play in the final 1:19 of the second quarter to close out an 11-0 Dallas run at the end of the half.

Stackhouse's final three-point play was particularly dispiriting to the Heat, coming with 2.5 seconds left in the half as he was falling out of bounds into the Mavericks' bench. *Reuters*

Shaq snubs media, fined $10,000

DALLAS—SHAQUILLE O'NEAL HAS been fined $10,000 for failing to make himself available to the media following the Miami Heat's 99-85 loss to the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday, the National Basketball Association announced.

The 34-year-old O'Neal had a career playoff low of five points in Sunday's Game Two of the NBA Finals at the American Airlines Center.

The Miami Heat organization have also been fined $25,000 for failing to ensure its players comply with league rules concerning media interviews.

Dallas leads the best-of-seven series 2-0 with Game Three set for Miami on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Jason Terry, hero of Dallas' game one National Basketball Association finals win over Miami, may need off-season surgery on an injured thumb that he has been nursing for four months.

The 28-year-old Terry chipped a bone in his right thumb during a regular season game against Portland on Jan. 22 but says it is a small price to pay for being able to compete in the 2006 NBA championship series.

"I'm taping it up," said Terry, who was the first round (10th overall) pick of Atlanta in the 1999 entry draft. "It is just the wear and tear of an NBA season.

The Mavericks were expecting another raucous sellout crowd for Sunday's game two at home. *Reuters, AFP*

THE LONG faces of Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal (right) and guard Dwyane Wade underscore the Dallas rout. REUTERS

Hopkins bows out after 18 years, 52 fights

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY—THIS WAS ONE doozy of a retirement party for Bernard Hopkins.

The star middleweight ended his boxing career after 18 years and 52 fights with a storybook finish, an upset of light heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver.

"I'm done, I'm done, I'm done," he said. "I don't need to risk anything else."

He risked plenty on Saturday.

At 41, coming off back-to-back losses, he jumped two weight classes to take on 175-pound (79-kilogram) champion Tarver in hopes of doing what his idol Sugar Ray Robinson couldn't — win a light heavyweight title.

The big night for Hopkins started when his sisters, wife and teachers were brought into the ring in a tribute before a video about his career played on the scoreboard. A who's who of Hollywood and pro sports watched from ringside, with announced spectators including Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing, Allen Iverson, Edgerrin James, Queen Latifah and Julius Erving.

Asked by HBO if he would consider coming back for a $20 million (euro15.8 million) payday, Hopkins replied: "I might come out of my grave for that kind of money."

But the fighter, who got his start in boxing while in prison, held the middleweight title for 11 years and finished with a flourish insisted later he was definitely calling it a career.

"I did what I said I was going to do," he said. "I wanted to make history, then move up and fight the winner of Roy Jones and Antonio Tarver. And although I had to fight Taylor one extra time, that's what happened." *AP*

Powell equals Gatlin's 100m world record

GATESHEAD, ENGland—Asafa Powell has a message for Justin Gatlin.

"That's how you run a world record," Powell said after timing 9.77 seconds in the 100 meters at the British Grand Prix on Sunday.

POWELL AP

It's the second time he's run the world record time he and Gatlin share. The Jamaican sprinter originally ran 9.77 in June 2005 in Athens, Greece. Gatlin tied Powell's record in Qatar on May 12 after his initial mark of 9.76 was changed five days later because of a timing mistake.

"As I said, I can run as fast as I want, when I want. I told them I would do my best here and I didn't let them down," Powell said.

Gatlin withdrew from the Gateshead meet last weekend after his agent, Renaldo Nehemiah, said there was never a contract for the Olympic champion to run against Powell.

The co-world record-holders will race in the 100 at the London Grand Prix on July 28.

The two were last on the same track in Eugene, Oregon at the Prefontaine Classic on May 28 but ran in separate heats. Gatlin won his race in 9.88 and Powell won his in a wind-aided 9.93.

Both maintain that no more than two races between the two should be expected, with both keen to maintain excitement about their head-to-head meetings. *AP*

Resurgent Singh wins third Barclays Classic golf crown

HARRISON, NEW YORK—VIJAY Singh tuned up for Winged Foot with a perfect US Open-style round on the wind-swept Westchester Country Club course.

Patiently closing with a bogey-free 3-under 68, the three-time major champion from Fiji won his record third Barclays Classic on Sunday to end a 21-event winless streak.

"Playing the back nine, although I hit one or two bad shots, it did not bother me at all," Singh said. "I just kept right in there and kept going. I knew the holes coming in were going to be tough. You can't run away on this golf course. Every hole is a very testing hole, so you can't think ahead."

SINGH: Big US Open warmup. AFP

Singh, a shot behind leader Billy Andrade after the third round, took a two-stroke lead over Brett Quigley with a 25-foot birdie putt on the 218-yard 16th and also birdied the par-5 18th to finish at 10-under 274—two strokes ahead of Adam Scott.

Also the 1993 and 1995 champion, Singh is the first three-time winner in the 40-year-old tournament and only the second player to win three US PGA Tour titles on the Westchester course. Jack Nicklaus won the 1965 Thunderbird on the hilly, tree-lined layout and added Westchester Classic titles in 1967 and 1972. The 43-year-old Fijian won for the first time since the Buick Open last July to raise his US PGA Tour victory total to 29 and tie Sam Snead's tour record for victories over 40 with 17." *AP*

Pak swings back to fame in Michelob Open

HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYland—Se Ri Pak landed her approach shot at the first playoff hole within inches of the pin to grab her third LPGA Championship crown with a triumph over Karrie Webb here Sunday.

The victory capped a long road back for Pak, whose last victory was the 2004 Michelob Ultra Open.

Her triumph came a year after she missed the cut here, and she sat out the final three months of the 2005 season. She arrived at the second major of the year with just one top-10 finish in 2006.

Webb and Pak both finished at eight-under-par 280 and headed back to 18 for a playoff.

Pak, who bogeyed 18 to give Webb a second chance, hit her drive into the fairway and hit a utility club to about three inches.

Webb, who fired an eagle from the fairway on 18 at the Kraft Nabisco en route to victory at the first major of the year, had a chance at birdie in the playoff but misread the putt from about 20 feet and it rolled well left.

Webb, a two-time winner this season, entered Sunday three shots off the pace but had four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the front nine to vault into contention. Overnight co-leader Ai Miyazato of Japan shared third place with South Korean Mi Hyun Kim on 281.

PAK: A winner again. AFP

Pat Hurst, who shared the third-round lead with Miyazato, was in a group a further shot back on 282 that also included prodigy Michelle Wie.

Annika Sorenstam rebounded with a 68 to finish at 283. *AFP*

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Same Same difference

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TAKE FIVE

The boys recorded a song with Lovi Poe and found her voice 'beautiful'

WHAT DO YOU GET WITH half of The Moffats—the "teen brother quartet" that churned out hits in the late 1990s like "I Miss You Like Crazy," "Girl of My Dreams" and "I'll Be There for You"?

You get Same Same—a.k.a. Clint and Bob Moffat, who are staging a comeback with a new CD, "The Meaning of Happy," under Sony-BMG.

The frequent Manila visitors were in town for a whirlwind promo tour last week. They also recorded a song, "Without You" with Lovi Poe—daughter of Action King and National Artist FPJ.

Fans expecting two cutesy moppets are in for a surprise: Clint now sports a beard, and a tattoo on his arm; Bob has dyed his hair blond and wears hoop earrings.

Being two of triplets (with David), Clint and Bob, now 21, seem to have a subconscious desire to look different from each other.

"It's not deliberate," Bob said.

"It's weird," Clint quipped.

The boys have changed, to be sure, but some things have remained, well, Same Same.

How are your brothers David and Scott?

Clint: They're doing great. Scott is now living in LA and working on his own solo project. He's still very involved in music.

Bob: Dave just recently started his own solo career as well. He signed up with an independent label in Canada.

How has your music changed?

CM: Obviously, [because] we're older now, the sound is more mature.

BM: But it's still pop.

CM: Pop with more of an edge.

What are your memories of the Philippines?

BM: This is our fifth visit.

CM: We did three concerts and the fans were amazing. It blew our minds.

BM: There was a huge turnout for a show at the Hard Rock Café (in Makati) that its doors got busted. It made the front pages the following day. It was crazy ... nothing we had experienced before.

CM: We ate at this restaurant with singing cooks and waiters. It was awesome! When we're asked about our favorite places, that Filipino resto tops our list. The singers were so much fun.

But what about the food?

CM: It was great. We had roast pig!

Was that Asian tour instrumental in your decision to live in Thailand?

BM: That wasn't planned. I was just visiting my dad and I ended up dragging Clint out there.

CM: We've been based in Bangkok for eight months now.

What are your favorite tracks in this album?

BM: My personal favorite is "Strange Lover." I like the things we tried on the song, like Thai instruments.

CM: There's definitely an Asian touch to it. I like "Strange Lover" as well. "I Waited Too Long" is another good one because of the melody and lyrics. It hints at the direction we may take in the next album.

Which is?

CM: A bit more mellow. Indie rock, I guess.

What was it like working with Lovi Poe?

BM: We met in Jakarta, where we shot the music video. She has a beautiful voice.

SAME/ A2-4

BOB, left, and Clint Moffat love the singing cooks and waiters in a Filipino restaurant here. "Awesome," they say. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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3 TAKE THE LEAD 11:40, 5:10, 10:35 PG-13 | CARS 2:35, 7:55 G
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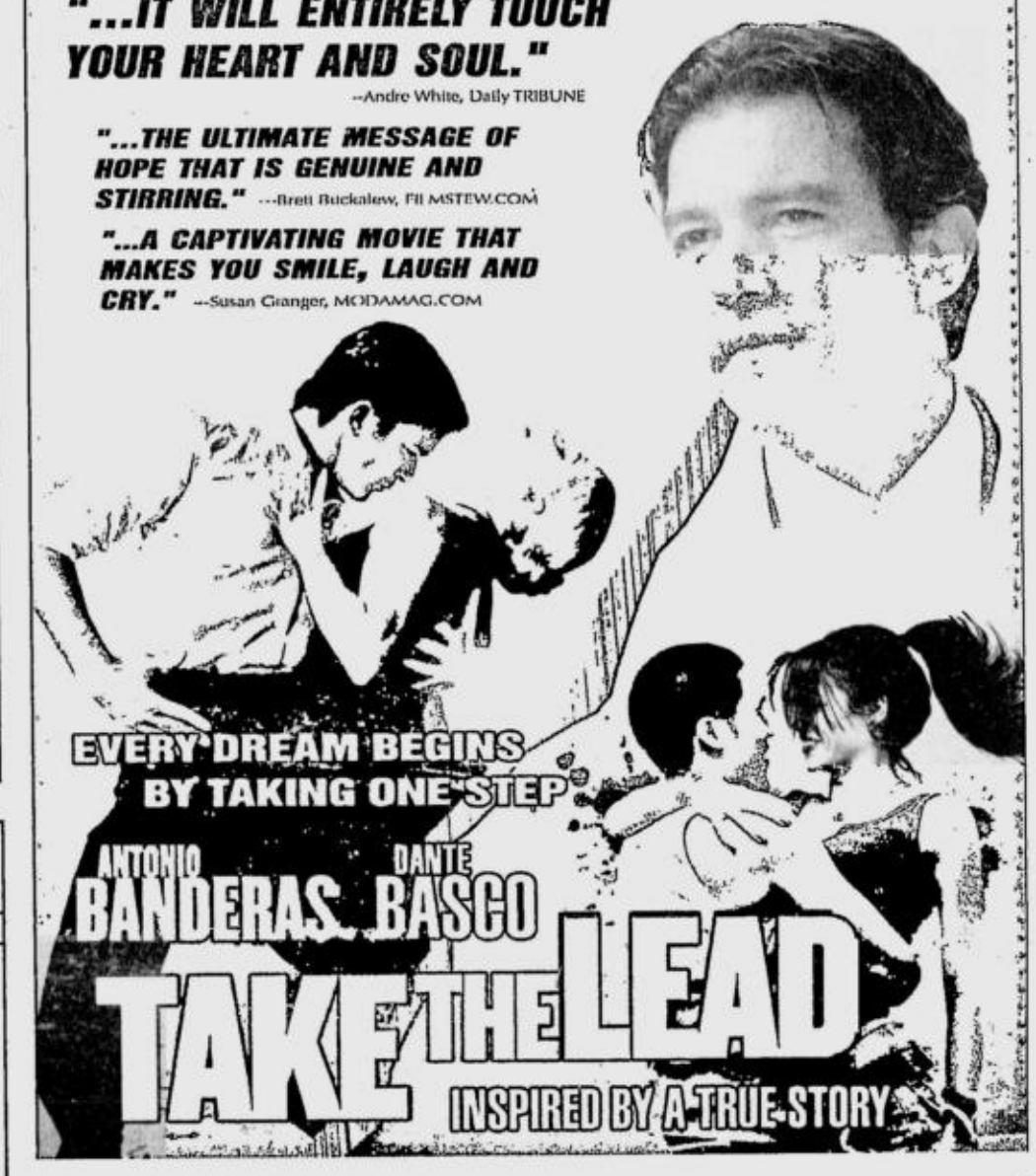

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ALL ABOUT LOVE 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	BENCH WARMERS 12:25 / 2:15 / 4:05 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 6:00 / 8:00 / 10:00	X-MEN 3 12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00	OMEN 666 1:55 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25

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Their lips s their PDA sa

THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MARVIN **Agustin**'s rumored girlfriend (half-Australian model) **Lani Pillinger** first came out here in Dollywood last week. I immediately got a text from Marvs that read, "Thanks for the write-up, my friend, but where did you get the pic of Lani?"

Yes, he seemed surprised but, good thing is, he's cool about it. After all, the more you try to hide love the more it shows! But what's this I heard that Lani is now dating model **Will Devaugn**? It's not that she doesn't like Marvin anymore. Maybe it's his busy sked that Lani can't take. Love without time, huh? So is Will just a substitute and not a replacement for Marvin? Is Will willing to be Lani's surrogate lover?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Sweeeet!

Spotted **Paolo Contis** and **Isabel Oli** soooo sweeeet together at a Quezon City coffee shop way past midnight. When asked about Paolo, Isabel always says she would rather keep that to herself. But their PDA says it all. The couple were playing with their laptops. I bet they are even sweeter when sitting on each other's laps!

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	4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	5 TAKE THE LEAD	6 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	7 THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE OMEN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX CARS 2:30, 5:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE OMEN 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 TAKE THE LEAD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 INSIDE MAN 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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er's Day

ig Revilla is marking Father's Day Kapag Tumibok ang Puso (Not Once vice)," a romance-comedy that is big lget, production values and controversy. It was kicked off by a headline-hogging issue involving its original leading lady **Gretchen Barretto**, who was replaced by 2005 Miss International **Precious Lara Quigaman**. It features state-of-the-art special effects.

For realism, Bong hired a stunt man from Hong Kong to choreograph the fight scenes. As the movie's title suggests, how many times has Bong's heart beat truly, madly and deeply for someone? He revealed, "I would say five, including (the last?) with my ani."

ised my dashing *kumpare*, "Is this or after you got married?" With his nark chinky eyes smiling, he replied, ipre before! I've stopped looking i *na*." But with his many charms, rtified ladies' man will always be l at and watched.

Ai de las Alas and I fondly call each "guru" because we both have a weakness for younger men. We figure this makes us both sort of teachers who share the wisdom of our years with our young beaus.

"*Papunta pa lang ang mga bagets, nakailang balik na tayo*," Ai-Ai says, only half in jest. "*Buti na lang nasalubong nila tayo at nagets natin ang mga* Papang *bagets*." Her current guy is in his early 20s. Their marriage plans have been put on hold. "*Naudlot* 'cause it leaked *sa* media," she says. "And my manager, **Boy Abunda**, thinks it's too early in the relationship."

Any adjustment she had to make, having coming from a lesbian relationship?

"It doesn't matter what kind of relationship you're in as long as you are both happy," she insists. "With a lesbian, it's more emotionally fulfilling 'cause she knows your needs as a woman. With guys, it's more physical but that doesn't mean all sex and no love."

Take it from the Comedy Queen. Amour is fun when one Love fits all!

Sour Lemons?

A production staff member of a daily TV show got pissed after interviewing Orange and Lemons.

She lamented, "I asked a serious question about how it feels to have penetrated all markets, since their songs are very popular everywhere. I think they didn't like my question 'cause feeling *nila matagal na silang sikat*. When they answered, they kept saying the word I used, 'penetrate,' in a sarcastic way. I have interviewed many bands and artists more famous than they are, and never did I feel so insulted! I walked out. They apologized, but the harm has been done. Now I believe stories I hear from industry people, that they have become swell-headed!"

Are Orange and Lemons turning out to be sour fruits of success?

Guess list

•This singer/actress is hooked on cocaine! During a shoot for a glossy ladies mag, she arrived sweating profusely and was obviously stoned. She doesn't have too many rackets these days but she can afford such an expensive vice because she has a filthy rich married Chinese paramour. What a waste! She should get sound advice about her bad, bad vice!

Clue: She is not a Manila girl.

•My ad agency contacts swear that she is a kleptomaniac. Recently, they say, she bought P40,000 worth of clothes from a ritzy store. But she stashed away some accessories (to match the outfits) inside her bag. The store manager up. Seems it's routine procedure for the mom and daughter. How long can Mother dearest cover up?

Clue: The TV host has a billboard inside a mall

Library at 20

Andrew "Mamu" de Real's Library is currently celebrating 20 years of laughter and music (June 11-22), with activities aptly dubbed "21@ 21st Vision."

The annual Golden Book Awards will once again be given out on main anniversary night, June 21.

Many popular comics—like Ai-Ai, **Allan K** and **Arnell Ignacio**—started out in Library. Many celebrities such as **Regine Ve-**

THEIR LIPS/ A2-4

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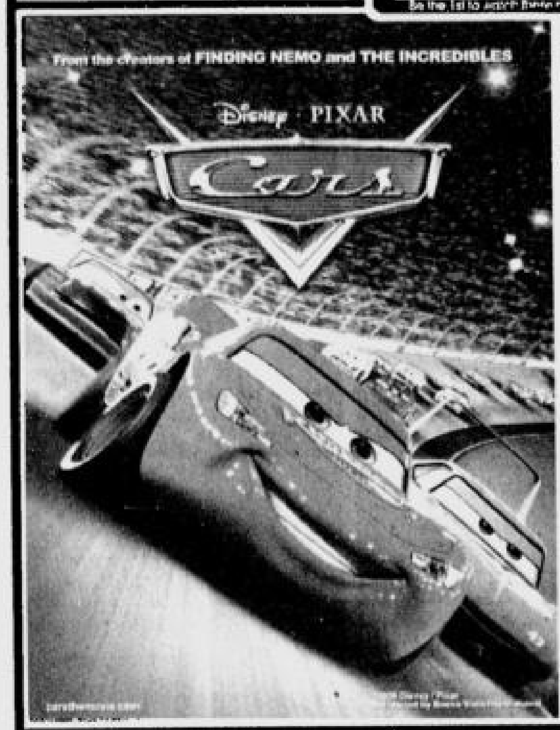

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She is the owner of Cozy Cone Motel and calls Lightning McQueen, "Stickers"
Answer:

The young hotshot rookie race car, whose favorite expression is "ka-chow!"
Answer:

His unique ability is to change a flat tire at 2.5 seconds flat
Answer:

The quiet doctor who runs the local medical clinic, err, mechanic shop
Answer:

Radiator Springs's resident hippie, who endorses the natural benefits of organic fuel
Answer:

Send in your answers together with your name, address, age and contact number at your nearest SM Cinema branch or e-mail to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com. Ten (10) lucky winners will be chosen from all the entries received. Answers must all be correct in order to qualify. Multiple entries sent will only be counted as a single entry. Deadline for the submission of entries is on June 20, 2006

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June 14 (Wednesday)	Mall of Asia 11:00 p.m. Manila
June 15 (Thursday)	Bacoor 11:00 a.m. Dasmariñas 1:00 p.m. Molino 3:00 p.m. Sta. Rosa 5:00 p.m.
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SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
EVEREST
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00 11:00
NASCAR 3D
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
PREMIERE CINEMA
ALL ABOUT LOVE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
XMEN III
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
INSIDE MAN
CARS
XMEN III
MANAY PO

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
INSIDE MAN
CINEMA 2
CARS

SM NORTH EDSA
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
THE OMEN
MANAY PO
TAKE THE LEAD
M:I:III
INSIDE MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
THE OMEN
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III

SM MEGACINEMA
POSEIDON
INSIDE MAN
XMEN III
CARS
CHAOS
THE OMEN
OVER THE HEDGE
BENCHWARMERS
TAKE THE LEAD
M:I:III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
CARS
TAKE THE LEAD
THE OMEN
XMEN III
M:I:III
CHAOS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
INSIDE MAN
MANAY PO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
BENCHWARMERS
CHAOS
INSIDE MAN
XMEN III
MANAY PO
THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
M:I:III
CARS
OVER THE HEDGE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
CARS
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III

SM CITY STA. MESA
CARS
THE OMEN
XMEN III
TAKE THE LEAD
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS
INSIDE MAN
M:I:III
CHAOS

SM CITY MANILA
THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
CHAOS
INSIDE MAN
POSEIDON
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
OVER THE HEDGE
M:I:III
BENCH WARMERS
CARS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
XMEN III
INSIDE MAN
CARS
ALL BOUT LOVE

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
CARS
THE OMEN
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY SUCAT
MANAY PO
XMEN III
CARS
THE OMEN

KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
(Not Once But Twice)
OPENS TOMORROW

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
CARS
THE OMEN
ALL ABPOUT LOVE
XMEN III

SM CITY MARILAO
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
XMEN III

SM CITY BACOOR
BENCHWARMERS
M:I:III
CARS
XMEN III
THE OMEN
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
CHAOS

SM CITY BATANGAS
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
SENTINEL
MANAY PO

SM CITY LUCENA
XMEN II
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY CLARK
THE OMEN
XMEN III
CARS
MANAY PO
REINCARNATION
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
THE OMEN
CARS
XMEN III
MANAY PO
REINCARNATION
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III
MANAY PO
CHAOS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
XMEN III

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
XMEN III
CARS
THE OMEN
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
AQUAMARINE
BANDIDAS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
M:I:III

SM CITY ILOILO
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
RESERVED
ALL ABOUT LOVE
M:I:III
MANAY PO
XMEN III
RESERVED
REINCARNATION

SM CITY DAVAO
XMEN III
SILENT HILL
ALL ABOUT LOVE
THE OMEN
CARS
MANAY PO

SM CITY CAGAYAN
SILENT HILL
ALL ABOUT LOVE
BENCHWARMERS
XMEN III

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 CARS
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

3 THE INSIDE MAN
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 TAKE THE LEAD
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

5 THE OMEN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

6 CHAOS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 X-MEN 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 ALL ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 MANAY PO
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 THE BENCHWARMERS
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE OMEN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 MANAY PO
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 THE INSIDE MAN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 TAKE THE LEAD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 CARS

7 X-MEN 3
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE INSIDE MAN
1:10 3:40 6:15 9:00

2 CARS
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

3 TAKE THE LEAD
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:05

4 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 MANAY PO
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

6 THE OMEN
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

7 X-MEN 3
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:10

8 ALL ABOUT LOVE
11:30 1:55 4.25 6:55 9:15

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X-MEN 3
4 CARS
5 MANAY PO
6 THE OMEN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 X-MEN 3
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE INSIDE MAN
2 CARS
3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 THE OMEN

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1 CARS
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 MANAY PO
5 AQUAMARINE / X-MEN 3

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1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 SILENT HILL
4 MANAY PO
5 X-MEN 3

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1 MANAY PO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 CARS
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 AQUAMARINE

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1 THE OMEN
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO
4 CARS

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1 THE OMEN
2 CARS
3 MANAY PO
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 X-MEN 3
6 THE DA VINCI CODE

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2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 MANAY PO
5 X-MEN 3
6 THE OMEN

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2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 BANDIDAS
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 X-MEN 3
6 OVER THE HEDGE

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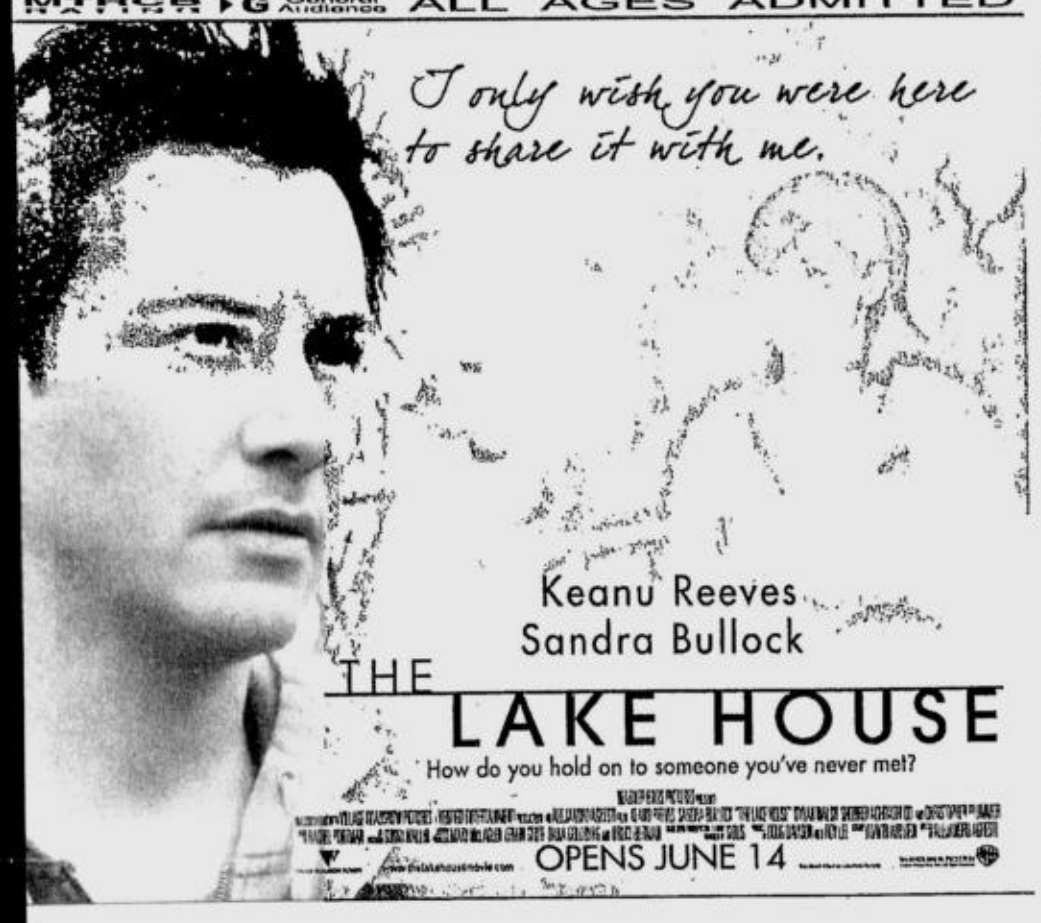

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2 (DOLBY) CARS GP
3 (DOLBY) OMEN 666 R13
4 (DOLBY) TH E INSIDE MAN PG13

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) TAKE THE LEAD PG13
X-MEN 3 PG13

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1 (DDS) TAKE THE LEAD
2 (SDDS) THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DTS) THE BENCHWARMERS
4 GOLD (DTS) X - MEN - 3
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CARS
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE INSIDE MAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
8 (DOLBY SR-D DIGITAL) CHAOS
9 (DOLBY SR-D DIGITAL) ALL ABOUT LOVE
10 (DOLBY SR-D DIGITAL) MANAY PO

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3 (DOLBY) TAKE THE LEAD CARS
4 (DOLBY) THE INDSIDE MAN

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1 CARS
2 THE OMEN 666
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 THE INSIDE MAN

Blue Wave MARLUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) X - MEN - 3
2 (DOLBY) MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) CARS
4 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 X - MEN - 3
5 THE INSIDE MAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MANAY PO
2 (DTS) ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) X - MEN - 3
4 CARS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 MANAY PO
2 (DOLBY) CARS
3 (DTS) X - MEN - 3
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) THE POSEIDON

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SILENT HILL
4 (DTS) X - MEN - 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 X - MEN - 3
2 MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT LOVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 X - MEN - 3
2 MANAY PO

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE DA VINCI CODE
5 MANAY PO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X - MEN - 3
4 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE OMEN 666
4 CARS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 CHAOS
3 MANAY PO

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE OMEN 666
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 X - MEN - 3
2 AQUAMARINE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) POSEIDON
2 SENSES
3 BANDEDAS
4 (DTS) DALAGITA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) OBSESSION
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS) X - MEN - 3
4 MANAY PO
5 CARS

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 X - MEN - 3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CARS
2 MANAY PO
3 (DTS EX) THE OMEN 666
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 SILENT HILL
4 X - MEN - 3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 X - MEN - 3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MANAY PO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 X - MEN - 3
2 KAULAYAW

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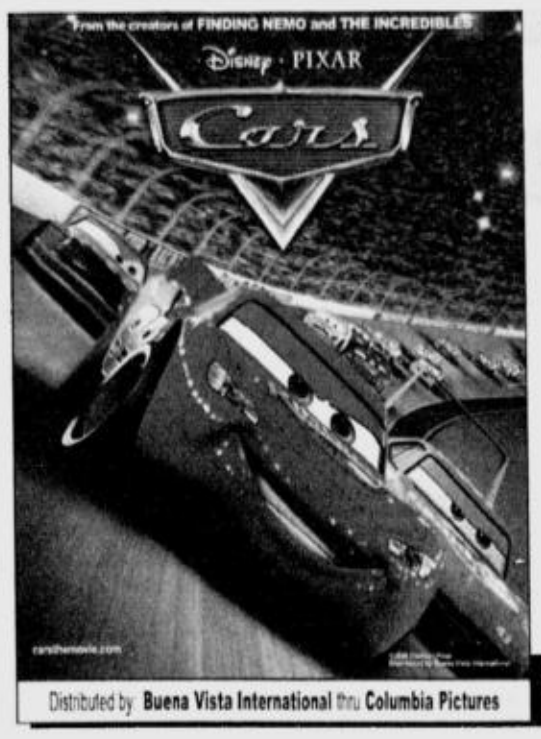

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FROM 2-TIME ACADEMY AWARDS® NOMINEE DIRECTOR JONATHAN STACK

SECRETS OF THE CODE

PRECIOUS Quigaman and Bong Revilla

Their lips say no . . .

From page A2-2

lasquez, Jed Madela, Anton Diva, Tim Tayag, Ara Mina and many more will have special shows during the 12-day period.

CD sale

The End of Summer CD Sale is set June 16-18 (10 a.m.-8 p.m.) at unit 603 Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Among the goods are all-original CDs and albums of the best pop, R&B, hip hop, classical, and jazz artists—**Andrea Bocelli**, Sugababes, **Ronan Keating**, Nirvana, Metallica, U2, Rain, Godsmack, **Bon Jovi**, Def Leppard. Also, movie soundtracks and various artists' original compilations.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.)

Same Same . . .

From page A2-1

CM: She's just starting—it's refreshing to work with someone who still has that enthusiasm and intensity.

Is it hard to live down The Moffats image?

CM: We don't try to live it down. It was something very dear to us. We grew up together, with our fans.

What is the "meaning of happy" for you?

BM: I can tell you what makes me happy: family and making music.

CM: Yah, spending time with my brothers.

BM: And girls!

CM: And girls.

Didn't you have enough when you were The Moffats?

CM: We were so young then, we ended up running away from them.

BM: It was overwhelming.

CM: But a lot of fun. We wouldn't trade those days for anything.

How did fame at a young age affect you?

BM: Well, we had to mature faster in other areas compared to most people our age, but, at the same time, we missed out on some things.

CM: Fortunately, we took a break for five years before making this album.

BM: We got to experience normal life and that helped a lot.

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RP rates lowly '8' in S&P scale

Watchdog's rating reflects 'relatively weak banking industry'

By Doris C. Dumlao

IN A SCALE OF TEN WHERE ONE IS THE HIGHEST, global credit watchdog Standard & Poor's has assigned a lowly "eight" to the Philippine banking system's country risk.

In a global banking report dated June 6, S&P introduced its new Banking Industry Country Risk Assessments (Bicra), classifying 60 countries into ten groups—from the strongest banking systems to the weakest—in terms of credit.

Bicra reflects the strengths and weaknesses of a country's banking system relative to other countries. The higher the Bicra—or as one moves away from group one and toward group ten—the greater the weight of country risk factors in all the bank ratings of a given country.

The Philippines was classified into group eight, alongside Argentina and nine other countries—Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru and Romania.

S&P said countries with Bicras of seven to ten have "relatively weak banking industries."

A notch higher, in group seven, were China, Latvia, Panama and Turkey. In group nine were Costa Rica, Guatemala, Lebanon, Russia, Tunisia and Uruguay.

At the bottom, group ten, were Bolivia, Jamaica, Ukraine, Venezuela and Vietnam, while at the top, group 1, were Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and United States.

Malaysia and Thailand rated higher than the Philippines, joining groups four and six, respectively.

Bicra reflects the quality and effectiveness of bank regulation, and the track record of a central bank in managing turmoil in the financial sector. It excludes the potential of government intervention and rescue of failing banks, which S&P tracks as a rating factor distinct from this assessment.

"A country with a low level of banking industry country risk has many characteristics that support the creditworthiness of its banks: Prudent and proactive banking regulation; a legal system that establishes clear and enforceable rights for debtors and creditors; and a diversified economy with healthy companies and households," the S&P report said.

"Conversely, a country with a high level of country risk displays some or many characteristics that are detrimental to bank creditworthiness: Weak bank regulation; undeveloped or arbitrary laws on property rights and bankruptcy; uncompetitive and volatile industries; and a concentrated, highly cyclical economy."

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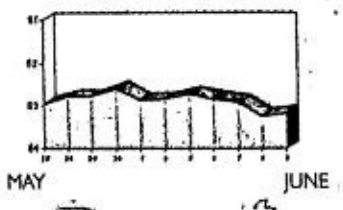

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¥113.91 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 9, 2006

GOLD: $607.10-607.60
per ounce Hong Kong, June 9, 2006

Trading resumes today

THE STOCK MARKET WAS CLOSED YESterday for a public holiday. Trading resumes today. Shares on Friday rose slightly as gains

TRADING/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Bangko Sentral inclined to relax Dosri rule /B3

DOF tells 4 LGUs: Pay P200 million in unpaid taxes /B2

Government cuts by half allocation for LRT-1 extension

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SLASHED BY almost half its allocation for the recently revived plan to extend the Light Rail Transit Authority's (LRTA) Line 1 from Baclaran, Parañaque City to Bacoor in Cavite.

At the same time, the LRTA management said that it is now holding discussions with four foreign groups which are interested in building the project's first phase, expected to start next year.

"Right now, I can tell you that there are three to four foreign groups talking to us," LRTA Administrator Mel Robles said in a phone interview. "It has to be a foreign group because of the [large] amount involved."

Robles declined to identify the firms, saying that the negotiations have just started. But he did say that the companies are based in the US, Japan and China, while the fourth is a consortium composed of "Middle Eastern and Indian" firms.

The project calls for the extension of the LRT Line 1—a Marcos-era rail system inaugurated in the early 1980s—from its Baclaran terminus to Bacoor, Cavite.

The project is supposed to ease congestion on the two main Manila-Cavite road links—the Coastal Road and the South Super Highway.

LRTA expects the first phase of Line 1, which will run up to Bacoor, to carry an average of 400,000 commuters per day. At present, over 350,000 passengers take the line each day.

The government eventually plans to extend the rail service all the way to Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Last week, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) cut its project cost estimate for the project sharply.

GOVERNMENT/ B3

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DOF tells 4 LGUs: Pay P200 million in unpaid taxes

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ordered four local government units (LGUs) to settle over P200 million worth of unpaid withholding taxes to help reduce the lingering budget deficit.

Data from the Department of Finance showed some of these withholding taxes have remained unremitted since 1992. As of end-May, the unremitted taxes totaled some P201.26 million.

The national government posted a P146.8-billion budget deficit last year, and wants this reduced to P125 billion this year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves recently met with representatives of the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (Phaltra) to discuss revenue-raising measures including the collection of unremitted taxes.

The finance chief reminded Phaltra that the LGUs have the responsibility to remit these taxes, for which they only acted as withholding agents.

The withheld taxes include value-added tax, income tax of suppliers as well as contractors for infrastructure projects of LGUs, and income taxes withheld from salaries of government employees.

LGUs that have unpaid withholding taxes include: Caloocan City (P184.9 million), Plaridel, Bulacan (P9.7 million), Valenzuela City (P4.8 million), and Malabon City (P1.86 million).

Teves acknowledged that some taxes have remained unpaid by LGUs because these were incurred in previous administrations, therefore incumbent local government officials might be overlooking the problem.

He noted that 40 percent of revenues collected by the national government automatically goes to LGUs anyway, as stated under the Local Government Code.

The DOF also asked LGUs to share taxpayer information that can be used by the national government to collect from delinquent corporate taxpayers.

Phaltra president and Quezon City treasurer Victor Endriga said LGUs have a far bigger taxpayer database than the Bureau of Internal Revenue since corporate taxpayers are more conscious about paying local taxes than national ones because they get and regularly renew business permits with the local governments.

Endriga said LGUs are willing to share taxpayer information but requested that the BIR share them information, too.

The DOF estimated the government loses P50 billion to P60 billion in potential tax collection yearly due to either delinquency of taxpayer or collection inefficiency.

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U-turn of the jedi

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE SUPREME COURT JUST SPOKE ON THE much-publicized ouster of a young man named Martin Romualdez from the board of the notorious Equitable PCIBank.

It explicitly ordered EPCIB to put him back in the EPCIB board as nominee of the minority stockholder called Trans Middle East (TME).

And the Supreme Court even said a mouthful—and much more—against those who ganged up on him.

The ruling only referred to the whole affair as an "unwanted circus," castigating the Sandiganbayan why it even could march into the high court itself.

Thus, the Supreme Court overturned the Sandiganbayan ruling that, in effect, TME could not use its EPCIB shares to vote Romualdez to the board.

It was, according to the Supreme Court, a mockery of the judicial system. It may even make the public doubt the integrity of the courts.

See, there is hope in our justice system.

* * *

ACTUALLY, the Supreme Court en banc deliberated on the issue. Penning the ruling was the legal jedi, none other than Justice Dante Tinga, concurred by the 12 other justices.

Actually, TME ran to the Supreme Court, after EPCIB officials used the Sandiganbayan ruling to kick Romualdez out of the board during the bank's annual stockholders meeting about three weeks ago.

Tinga revealed in the ruling that a consensus built up in the Supreme Court en banc for the immediate resolution of the TME case, since it could affect the financial system.

All the other justices, as I said, signed the Tinga ruling, except Justice Adolf Azcuna, who actually abstained, since he once served as legal counsel of TME.

Another justice was on leave.

In effect, it was a unanimous decision. Tinga even disclosed that the Supreme Court en banc made the ruling with EASE—i.e. no sweat, really.

* * *

THE OTHER featured clown in the Supreme Court ruling, aside from the Sandiganbayan, was of course the PCGG.

It was the PCGG that asked the Sandiganbayan to get rid of this pesky Romualdez from the EPCIB board.

What the PCGG told the Sandiganbayan was based on "news reports," which said that the Romualdez family (owner of TME) was bent on disposing their EPCIB shares.

And the job of the PCGG, technically, was only to preserve the assets it claimed to be ill-gotten.

That, in effect, the Supreme Court found the claim of the PCGG funny. For one, the Supreme Court noted the EPCIB shares of TME were put in escrow with the Land Bank. How could the shares be ... well, dissipated?

If anything, according to the Supreme Court, the EPCIB shares of TME could be dissipated only through radical corporate changes such as a merger of EPCIB with another bank or a call of the board for capital increase.

Oops, those were the things that the SM group precisely wanted to do.

Now, TME by itself could not effect such changes, since it was entitled to only one board seat. In control of the bank right now is the SM group, right?

Thus, if the PCGG really wants to do its one and only job of preserving the EPCIB shares of TME, it should oppose the SM group's plans for merger and capital increase.

Instead, the PCGG is doing a U-turn, going the other way. Well what did the Supreme Court say about it being a circus?

* * *

BUT then again the Supreme Court took a swipe at the SM group, led by its heir apparent Tessie Sy, daughter of mall operator Henry Sy.

Word was that Tessie Sy was on top of the conspiracy to boot Romualdez out of the EPCIB board. It said that she even got the, er, "cooperation" of Malacañang.

Anyway, from what I gathered, even telephone calls from the Palace did not deter the Supreme Court from ruling in favor of Romualdez—i.e. AGAINST Tessie Sy.

The ruling noted that the Sandiganbayan decision "has been used to the

BREAKTIME/ B5

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Bangko Sentral inclined to relax Dosri rule

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas is planning to ease some provisions in the rules governing banks' lending to their directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (Dosri).

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank was looking at possible amendments to the definition of "related interests" under the Dosri rule.

Tetangco said some quarters thought the provision was too stringent.

Sources said the existing definition was too restrictive as it forces good affiliates to source financing elsewhere.

Under the guidelines, the term "related interests" is defined as "any corporation, association or firm that controls directly or indirectly, whether on its own or as part of a group, at least 20 percent of the subscribed capital base of a substantial stockholder of the lending bank or which controls the majority interest of the bank; any corporation, association or firm in which the lending bank and/or its parent or subsidiary holds at least 20 percent of the subscribed capital of such corporation, or equity of such association or firm, or has an existing management contract or any similar arrangement with the lending bank or its parent or subsidiary."

This definition was introduced by the BSP two years ago to free up funds for lending to small- and medium-sized borrowers.

"There may be too many limits," Tetangco said.

Section 36 of the General Banking Law of 2000 limits the banks' Dosri exposure to an amount equivalent to the borrower's unencumbered deposits and book value of paid-in contribution in the bank. This is as long as unsecured loans and other Dosri credit accommodations and guarantees shall not exceed 30 percent of any bank's overall exposure.

The law also prescribes that a bank's Dosri exposure should not exceed 15 percent of its total loan portfolio or 100 percent of its net worth, whichever is lower.

Government . . . From page B1

Transportation Assistant Secretary Roberto R. Castañares said he was now expecting the project to cost only $430 million, down from its initial $800-million tag price.

It is unclear what led to the reduction in cost, although initial indications point to the difficulty the transportation department is having in raising funds for the 11.7-kilometer rail link.

Trading resumes today From page B1

made earlier in the session were wiped out by investors pocketing profit.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange Index on Friday rose 1.82 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,159.50, after shedding 6.4 percent in the past three sessions. The market was up by 1.5 percent earlier in the session. Volume reached 527.35 million shares worth P967.14 million.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

UPGRADING OF DATA CENTER AT SAN PABLO BRANCH OFFICE

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, through the *2006 Approved Budget for the year 2006 Budget for Capital Expenditures – Upgrading of Electrical, Mechanical and Air-con System* intends to apply the sum of *Two Million Three Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Seventeen Pesos & 68/100 Only (P2,310,717.68)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Upgrading of Emergency Power Line intended for UPS and IT Equipment including Air-conditioning Units of San Pablo Branch.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for the *Upgrading of Data Center at San Pablo Branch Office.* Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before June 16, 2006 at the *Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City* and secure therefrom **Eligibility Requirements**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated in a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: *June 23, 2006, 2:30 p.m. at the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.* Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents at the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, on June 23, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. Any Eligibility Documents submitted after this deadline shall be declared "Late" and shall not be accepted by the Bids and Awards Committee. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. Complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of *Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00).* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before June 27, 2006.
7. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on June 30, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the following address: Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on July 07, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in a form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on July 07, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. Completion of the works is required by *30 calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award issued by SSS, BAC or from receipt of Notice to Proceed issued by the Engineering & Maintenance Department (EMD), whichever comes first.*
10. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
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6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. # 922-2991, 924-7380, 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number — (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – June 13, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE
Provincial Capitol Building, Dipolog City
Tel. #(065) 212-3561 Telefax #(065) 212-6492

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Rehabilitation of Mauswagon-Poblacion, Godod Road, Godod, Zamboanga del Norte (Length = 9.020 kilometers)

The Provincial Government of Zamboanga del Norte through the General Fund of 2005 and Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Support Programme (BIARSP) GOB Funds intends to apply the sum *Twelve Million Pesos (Php12,000,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Provincial Government of Zamboanga del Norte now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Rehabilitation of Mauswagon-Poblacion, Godod Road, Godod, Zamboanga del Norte under PR#100 (01) 06-5-1222. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license, (at least Medium A) applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contracts with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a 'pass/fail' basis. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest of outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, PGSO, Capitol Building, Dipolog City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Six Thousand Pesos (Php 6,000.00) only. The bidder shall receive the Bidding Documents personally or his authorized representative on the date specified below.

Schedule of Activities	Date	Time
1. Submission of a written letters of intent together with its Application for Eligibility	June 28, 2006	
2. Submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements	July 03, 2006	10:00 a.m.
3. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 06, 2006	
4. Pre-Bid Conference	July 11, 2006	10:00 a.m.
5. Opening of Bids	July 25, 2006	10:00 a.m.

All activities shall be held at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Bldg., Dipolog City, unless announced otherwise.

The Provincial Government of Zamboanga del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liabilities to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL S. LADERA
BAC Chairman
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(PDI–June 13 & 20, 2006)

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(PDI – June 13, 2006)

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Ecop warns of dire effects of House-approved P125 wage hike bill

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) yesterday strongly opposed the P125 across-the-board daily wage hike bill approved by the House of Representatives on second reading, saying it was an "unconscionable act" that does more harm than good in the long run.

"An economic pandemonium is in the offing," ECOP President Rene Y. Soriano warned.

Soriano noted that the "hastily enacted legislation" will exact a heavy toll on the economy as firms which cannot afford such magnitude of wage increase will be forced to close shop or those firms which can manage to pay to up to a certain extent will resort to lay-offs.

"This would trigger massive job losses and unemployment," he pointed out. As it is, as a result of the vicious cycle of explosive population growth, relatively slow economic growth and populist policies which include the politics of high minimum wages, the Philippines is experiencing the phenomenon of jobless-growth.

Under House Bill 345 or the measure granting a P125 across-the-board daily wage hike of workers, the pay adjustment shall be implemented in the following manner: P45 on Oct. 1, 2006; P40 on Oct. 1, 2007; and another P40 on Oct. 1, 2008.

Soriano also said the staggered wage hike proposal "will cripple the economy and worsen the wage competitiveness of the Philippines in the region." As it is, the Philippines has already the highest minimum wage rates or entry level for unskilled workers as adjusted to productivity in the region. It may be noted that among the ASEAN countries, three, namely the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia have regional minimum wage fixing. However, while Thailand has a GDP per capita twice bigger than thePhilippines, the Table shows that the minimum wage equivalent to $3.47-4.37 in Metro Bangkok is much lower than the equivalent minimum wage of $6.17 in Metro Manila. Malaysia, which has a GDP per capita nearly four times greater than the Philippines and where thousands of OFWs have found lucrative employment, starts with an entry-level wage of $4.28. An across-the-board wage increase of P125.00 a day increases the minimum wage rates for Metro Manila to P450.00 a day or $8.65.

In addition, Soriano said a P125 across-the-board increase will trigger unprecedented spiraling cost-push inflation. The cost of labor is one of the factors of production.

"What is significant about the percentage of the legislated wage increase is that it is much higher than any realistic forecast of the inflation rate for the next three years and far above the average percentage of benefits secured through collective bargaining," Soriano pointed out. Such excessive rates of wage increases have far reaching destructive implications for the economy in general and on unionism and collective bargaining in particular, he added.

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO HIGH SCHOOL (CGEAHS) BATCH 1985 REUNION

Calling all CGEAHS Batch 85. We will have our 1st reunion after 20 years set on December 17, 2006. You may log on to www.cgeahs.com or call Ms. Aileen Academia- Garcia at 438-3309 or 0920-9115081 or Mr. Carlos M. Barlisan 0918-6530404 Let's reminisce our BAGETS "Just got lucky...." Days!

POEA 722-1144 722-1155
24-HR HOTLINES

OBITUARIES

"We seem to give her back to Thee, O God,
Who gavest her to us. Yet as Thou didst not lose her in giving,
so we do not lose her by her return."

Our dearly beloved

Conchita Martinez Padilla

June 23, 1918

Peacefully joined the Lord
and her husband, Pablo A. Padilla, Sr.
on June 11, 2006

Her loving children: Carolina and Tito Roy, Teresita,
Pablo Jr. and Maria Luisa Pronstroller, and Angel Ernesto,
grandchildren: Karen and Robson, Juan Paolo,
Rhea and Allan, Rachel and Ronald, Louella, Susan Melissa and Pablo Marito IV,
and great grandchildren: Lorenzo, Francesca and Anna Karina,
request relatives and friends to offer prayers
to celebrate the beginning of her life everlasting.

The family members would like to invite relatives and friends to pay their last respects to their beloved mother and grandmother at the Sanctuario Sto. Niño Chapel, Kapitan Pepe Subdivision, Cabanatuan City, starting Tuesday, June 13, 2006.

Her final journey to the Lord will take place on Thursday, June 15, 2006 after the 8 AM Holy Mass.

"... And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing but the limit of our sight..."

Rosalie Jarrett, O.S.B.

In lieu of flowers, your offerings to the Carmel of Our Lady of Nazareth or Cathedral Construction Project, Cabanatuan City, would be much appreciated.

Capt. Arnold Sanz Corpus

(October 6, 1942 – June 11, 2006)

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 11, 2006 at the age of 63.

His loving wife **Margot**; children **Marjorie** (†), **Mary Ann & Walley, Maribeth** (†), **Clint** (†), **Margaret & Abe, Stevie** (†), **Michael John**; grandchildren **Tim, Matthew, Maggie, Jennel, Clint, Lance, Maleyna** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers t o join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 18, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Death Notices

SYLVIA CHAN LIM

who peacefully joined her Creator on June 8, 2006 in San Francisco, California, USA.

Her body will lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine – Parish, 5th St., Doña J. Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City on Friday, June 16, 2006.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine – Parish.

ATTY. LUIS SALVADOR CAPULONG
(San Simon, Pampanga and Quezon City)

Has peacefully joined his Creator on June 9, 2006 at the age of 78.

His remains lie in state at Imperial Chapel of La Funeraria Paz, Inc., 143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment shall be on Thursday, June 15, 2006 after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

RICARDO R. SAMONTE

Peacefully joined his CREATOR on June 9, 2006 at the age of 89.

His remains lie in state at Sto. Niño Chapel (near Malolos Cathedral), Sto. Niño, Malolos, Bulacan.

Interment will be today, June 13, 2006 at the Legacy Memorial Park, Malolos, Bulacan after the 2 p.m. mass at Sto. Niño Chapel, Malolos, Bulacan.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Sy raises P800M from sale of shares in Chinabank

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SHOEMART INC., THE PRIVATELY OWNED department store operator of mall magnate Henry Sy, boosted its cash assets after raising P800 million from the sale of shares in its sister firm, China Banking Corp., sources familiar with the deal said.

Sources added the funds will be channeled into general investments and expansion projects.

The SM Group is adding at least four new department stores this year including one in Mall of Asia and another in Clark, Pampanga, sources said.

Privately held firms of the Sy family and the Dee family of Chinabank sold a total of 6.9 percent in the bank for $53.5 million (P2.8 billion) to international institutional investors. The secondary placement increased Chinabank's public float to 30 percent.

The selling shareholders were members of the SM Group such as Shoemart Inc., Sysmart Corp. and other stockholders of the Dee family. With the sale, the SM Group has trimmed its stake to 40 percent from 46 percent.

Separately, another Shoemart sister firm, SM Prime Holdings Inc., is expanding its mall network as it is set to open in July a new mall at Frontera Verde at the Tiendesitas commercial complex in Pasig. Two additional malls will open this year including one in Lipa, Batangas, by September and another in Bacolod before the end of the year, SM Prime president Hans Sy said.

The three malls will expand SM Prime total malls to 28. These malls form part of SM Prime's P7 billion capital spending this year.

Last month, SM Prime opened its P6.5 billion "Mall of Asia," its biggest and most ambitious project in the country to date.

The 400,000-square-meter mall is Sy's 25th mall, with over 600 local and international brands and over 150 indoor and al fresco dining outlets.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 9, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	35.5	33	33	355,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	51.5	49	49.5	1,167,900
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,430,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	72	73.5	72	73	157,800
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41	41	23,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33.5	32.5	33	442,300
Philippine National Bank	33	33	32	32	37,800
Phil. Savings Bank	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	11,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.25	17.75	18	81,100
Security Bank Corp.	50	50	49	49	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44	44	44	2,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	21,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	27	32	27	32	12,200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1750	1750	1720	1720	580
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	11,090
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2100	2080	2100	1,500
Ivantage Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.18	1,180,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	42	42	726,700
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	14,800
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.5	538,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	3,217,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	4,069,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.98	81,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23.25	23	23.25	45,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	34.5	33	34.5	510,500
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.65	2,047,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63.5	63	63.5	75,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	70	69.5	70	108,800
Universal Robina Corp	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	157,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	610,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	1,637,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	6,550,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	50,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	10,900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	355	365	352.5	352.5	208,690
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	250,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	255,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	1,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	1,243,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	4,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	55,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	17,600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	11,570,000
Omci Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.75	3.6	3.6	1,239,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	1,225,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	125,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	4,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	710,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	223	217	218	101,190
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.5	11.75	8,651,400
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	30,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	1,584,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	4,500,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	12,260,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.028	1,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.38	8,009,000
Interport Res. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.52	1.46	1.5	17,606,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	8,510,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	600,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11	11	10.75	10.75	479,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,620,000
SM Development Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	53,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.4	12,148,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.065	0.07	600,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.5	14	14.25	29,100
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	1,789,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	860	840	855	14,830
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.45	3.5	3.35	3.4	3,411,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1920	1940	1915	1915	81,510
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	750,000
Ionics Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.42	2.42	396,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	1,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	41,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.7	1,155,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	1,773,600
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.4	506,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.62	520,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1000	1000	1000	1000	890
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	2	1.9	1.94	485,000
Paxys Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.25	10.5	1,260,300
Philippine Seven Corp.	1.82	3.25	1.82	3.25	6,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	63,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	540,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	14,750,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	7,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	108,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3	3.15	2.9	3.05	8,431,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.95	3.1	2.9	3.05	17,787,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	49,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	630,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	89,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	455,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	60,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	14	15.5	14	15	753,600
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	6,000

CURRENCIES

June 12, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.790264	1.000000	53.0340
Japan	Yen	0.006925	0.008763	0.4647
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456456	1.843000	97.7417
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101816	0.128838	6.8328
Switzerland	Franc	0.641396	0.811622	43.0436
Canada	Dollar	0.704272	0.891186	47.2632
Singapore	Dollar	0.495556	0.627077	33.2564
Australia	Dollar	0.587338	0.743218	39.4158
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.096302	2.652661	140.6812
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210714	0.266638	14.1409
Brunei	Dollar	0.494007	0.625117	33.1525
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000106	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020563	0.026021	1.3800
UAE	Dirham	0.215266	0.272398	14.4464
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.265400	67.1092
ArgentinaPeso	0.256329	0.324359	17.2021	
Brazil	Real	0.348595	0.441112	23.3939
Denmark	Kroner	0.134079	0.169664	8.9980
India	Rupee	0.017244	0.021820	1.1572
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215624	0.272851	14.4704
Mexico	New Peso	0.069376	0.087789	4.6558
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494874	0.626213	33.2106
South Africa	Rand	0.116592	0.147536	7.8244
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001049	0.0556
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024340	0.030800	1.6334

Breaktime

From page B2

maximum benefit by the respondents, all connected with EPCIB."

So there—that's the conspiracy right there!

* * *

AS EVERYBODY knows, including the Palace, Tessie Sy has been dying to take control of EPCIB through the SM group's Banco de Oro.

She has been getting help from two "godfathers." Word went around that they were Bernardino Abes, who is like a father to Gloriaetta, and Diosdado Macapagal Jr., who is a real brother of Gloriaetta.

At first, before the 2004 presidential election, that pension fund of the working class, the SSS, sold its EPCIB holdings to SM group for P47 per shares, payable after seven years, without any down payment.

Then, after the sale was questioned before the Supreme Court, the SM group worked on the merger of EPCIB and its own BDO.

Vocally—and vehemently so—opposing Tessie Sy were GSIS president Winston Garcia and, well, that annoying Romualdez.

Unfortunately for Tessie Sy, the guy must be put back in the EPCIB board. The Supreme Court said so. En banc.

* * *

WHAT IS this I hear about an insurance guy who is taking a girlfriend on helicopter rides for dinner dates to Tagaytay?

Word goes around that, unknown to another girlfriend, the married lover boy has this new one who lives somewhere in Mandaluyong. Or is it San Juan?

Anyway, aside from the Tagaytay dates, the handsome devil even parades his new conquest in Boracay.

The problem is, while the son of his mother is using a helicopter for dates, his company has yet to pay for the insurance claim of a famous political family for well, also a helicopter.

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,150,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	-	520,000
Camp John Hay	-	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	60,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	120,000	-
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	320,000*/Pls. Call	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	100,000/170,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	2,600,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	330,000/Pls. Call*	300,000/700,000*
Makati Sports Club	180,000	160,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	300,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	180,000	100,000
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/500,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	200,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	180,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**	150,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/150,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,150,000	1,100,000/1,550,000*
Subic Golf	190,000	-
The Palms Country Club	420,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	880,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	600,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	160,000	130,000
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

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ALABANG B	1.2M	ALABANG A	PLS. CALL
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	540K	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	510K
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	500K	CELEBRITY SPORTS	100K
CAPITOL HILLS	70K	CLUB FILIPINO	90K
EAGLERIDGE B	300K	EAGLERIDGE B	PLS. CALL
EAGLERIDGE C	330K	MANILA GOLF IND	11.5M
FOREST HILLS B	180K	MANILA GOLF CORP	11.5M
MAKATI SPORTS	180K	MANILA POLO CLUB	2.750M
MANILA GOLF CORP	12.0M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	650K
MANILA GOLF IND	11.8M	METROCLUB	140K
MANILA POLO CLUB	PLS. CALL	MIMOSA A	190K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	700K	MIMOSA C	550K
MANILA YACHT CLUB	350K	ORCHARD A	150K
MIMOSA C-3	600K	ORCHARD B	PLS. CALL
MIMOSA-IND	200K	PUERTO AZUL GOLF CLUB B	50K
ORCHARD B	350K	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB B	130K
PUNTA FUEGO	400K	SPA & LODGE	450K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	150K	STA. ELENA A	1.1M
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	70K	STA. ELENA B	1.3M
STA. ELENA B	1.2M	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	630K
TOWER CLUB C	300K	THE PALMS	350K
VALLE VERDE	90K	WACK WACK	6.2M

Please contact AMIE, VIRGIE OR REY
Tel.#s 8186936/ 8186991/ 8186948; Fax # 818-5453
email address: fvrhi@info.com.ph
GF Tuscan Bldg. 114 V.A.Rufino St. Legaspi Village, Makati City

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SELLERS		BUYERS	
ALABANG "A"	1.175M	MLA GOLF CORP	12M
BAGUIO CC	550K	MANILA POLO	2.7M
SPA & LODGE	470K	STA. ELENA "B"	1.52M

TERE TABUENA, LYRA, FRANCO DEL ROSARIO
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Email sharexchange@pldtdsl.net

GG&A Club Shares
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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,150,000	1,020,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	540,000	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	70,000	-
Camp John Hay	230,000	190,000
Canlubang	500,000	475,000
Capitol Hills	60,000	45,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	170,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	180,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	-
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,600,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	330,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	690,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	220,000	190,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	600,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	200,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"	150,000	-
Spa & Lodge	530,000	450,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	640,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Valley Golf	180,000	160,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,200,000

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'50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis'

AMWSLAI marks 50th Foundation Anniversary today; Sec. Michael Defensor is guest of honor

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE MANILA

Warmest greetings to the management and staff of the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc.** as you mark your **50th Foundation Anniversary.**

Your anniversary theme, **"50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis,"** highlights your accomplishments in serving the financial needs of our soldiers and policemen in the last five decades.

I am pleased by your **"Bawat Miyembro may Negosyo"** and **Bawat Miyembro Protektado"** programs as they will surely go a long way in enhancing the lives of your beneficiaries. May you continue coming up with worthy projects that provide your members with access to livelihood and business opportunities that will help them secure a brighter future for their families.

I urge you to rally behind the government in pushing forward our development agenda to fight poverty and engender genuine progress and stability in our country. Together, we shall beat the odds!

More power and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

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My warmest greetings and congratulations to the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI)** as it celebrates its Golden Foundation Anniversary on June 13, 2006.

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I join the AMWSLAI in leading the country in the march towards lasting progress for our people and our nation.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO

Republic of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

My warmest greetings to the officers, staff and members of the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI) on the occasion of the celebration of AMWSLAI's 50th Foundation Anniversary on June 13, 2006.

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I urge all the great men and women of AMWSLAI to seize this worthwhile opportunity to delve on crucial issues of the day, use their special talents, explore avenues for further innovation, creativity and competitiveness amidst the ever-present social, economic and political crises in our country, thereby contribute to the realization of our national development goals and ultimately lead this country towards lasting peace, freedom and prosperity.

More power and *Mabuhay!*

FRANKLIN M DRILON
Senate President

Republic of the Philippines
Congress
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My warmest greetings to the soldiers and policemen, who are members of the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc. on your 50th Foundation Anniversary on June 13, 2006, with the theme, *"50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis!"*

The AMWSLAI has contributed to the financial security and well-being of all its members, while generating capital for enterprise, jobs, housing and even charity projects for the benefit of our soldiers and policemen.

We in the House of Reprsentatives have crafted urgent and significant reform measures that have strengthened our anti-poverty programs and are helping create the new Filipino middle class. We have passed the first ever trillion-peso budget in history, designed to pump-prime the economy and ensure the continuous and expanded delivery of vital public services.

As the country's second-largest non-stock savings and loan association with P15 billion in assets, the AMWSLAI is our dependable ally in promoting economic productivity, corporate generosity and good financial management.

In this golden milestone, I wish AMWSLAI and its members a memorable anniversary.

Mabuhay!

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Speaker

Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc.

Society works by putting opportunity and responsibility together!"

This is how AMWSLAI was conceived 50 years ago. The founders saw the opportunity and responsibility to provide financial assistance to the uniformed and civilian employees of the 410th Air Materiel Wing of the Philippine Air Force.

Since then, the association grew in leaps and bounds and this we owe to the more than 230,000 members nationwide from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology for supporting us all through the years.

It has not been an easy road in balancing what is required to have financial sustainability and competing in the market and reaching out to the soldiers and policemen in the field. But knowing the number of people and families we've helped, every step of collective hard work and perseverance was all worth it.

In behalf of our Board of Trustees and the officers and staff, we SALUTE all our members and patrons who believed in us and remained undaunted and unfazed even during the adversities of times.

Today, we celebrate a new beginning, a renewal and strengthening of our commitment, to continue to serve and protect the interests of our members.

We would like also to extend our sincere appreciation to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission for providing us guidance. We thank also the Department of National Defense, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Philippine Veterans Bank and Philippine Postal Corporation and all our banking and service partners for supporting and joining us in this Golden and memorable year of celebration.

GOD BLESS US ALL!!!

COL RICARDO L NOLASCO JR PAF (RET)
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Republic of the Philippines
Department of National Defense

I convey my heartfelt felicitations to the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI)** on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary.

From its humble beginnings in 1956, **AMWSLAI**, has grown into a stable and dynamic financial institution that offers a wide-range of savings and credit-loan facilities to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and the various agencies of the Department of National Defense and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

In its five decades of existence, **AMWSLAI** has established a reputable status, not just in the area of financial services delivery, but also in the area of strengthening corporate social responsibility. It has succeeded not only in helping uplift the economic well-being of its members and encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship. It has also launched numerous endeavors that have benefited our communities.

As **AMWSLAI** continues to pursue excellence and reliability in the delivery of financial services, I am certain that you will develop a more sound and agile marketing organization that is truly responsive to customer needs and expectations.

Congratulations and more power!

AVELINO J. CRUZ, JR.
Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government

I extend my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI)** on their **50th Aniversary** on June 13, 2006.

I am heartened that the 50 years of service you have extended to your members have been marked with excellence through programs and projects, in your desire to help them economically and financially.

It is a common knowledge that members of the uniformed sector needed assistance with their meager pay from government which is more often than not just enough to meet their families' needs.

It is interesting to note that you are now embarking on a project that would give your members opportunity to become entrepreneurs of sort for which I salute you for your innovativeness. It is my hope that your projects, particularly the *Bawat Miyembro may Negosyo* program, will serve as a stepping stone for your enterprising members to move on with their lives as independent businessmen and entrepreneurs.

May **AMWSLAI** continue in its commitment to serve its members even as it strives to provide them with benefits for money they invest in.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

RONALDO V. PUNO
Secretary

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila
Office of the Governor

Congratulations to Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc., for marking its 50th year of service!

Your anniversary theme, "50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis" sums up all the hard work and dedication you have shown in your continuing mission to be of genuine service to your members, as well as your contribution to the growth of the non-stock savings and loan association (NSSLA) industry.

I commend you for your efforts to promote the growth of NSSLAs as viable sources of credit and other financial services. From a single office with an initial capital of P5,000 when it first opened in 1956, the association expanded nationwide with a current network of 34 branches and total resources of P15 billion, and servicing over 230,000 members.

I call on the association to remain steadfast in responding to the needs of its members. It is vital that you continuously uphold ethical practices that will generate greater confidence and trust of the public whom you serve.

I hope you will continue to work harder to further improve operations and boost your capability and efficiency as an effective channel of funds. This way, you can better serve and help our countrymen attain a productive and better life.

I wish you success in all your undertakings.

AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
Governor

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael T. Defensor is the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the 50th Founding Anniversary celebration of the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AMWSLAI) today at the Tejeros Hall, Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Country, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The AMWSLAI — which is headed by its chairman Retired Col. Ricardo L. Nolasco, Jr. — is the second largest non-stock savings and loan association (NSSLA) with over 230,000 members from various agencies of the Department of National Defense, Department of Interior and Local Government, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The transformation of AMWSLAI from a modest outfit in 1956 into one of the biggest and progressive NSSLA in the country did not come about overnight. The association had to contend with its own shares of challenges and difficulties, including the ups and downs of the Philippine economy. But due to the unwavering trust and confidence of its members, AMWSLAI was able to weather all trials that came its way.

History:

AMWSLAI was founded in June 13, 1956 by officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees of the 410th Air Materiel Wing of the Philippine Air Force at then Nichols field with an initial capitalization of P5,000.

Because of the growing demand for its services, AMWSLAI started accepting membership from other units of the Philippine Air Force after three years of continued operation.

In 1963, AMWSLAI obtained a licensed from the Central Bank of the Philippines, one of the first savings and loan associations to operate pursuant to Republic Act 3779, otherwise known as the Savings and Loan Act of 1963.

In 1965, AMWSLAI together with other savings and loan associations from various sectors of society, became founding members of the Philippine League of Savings and Loan Associations and the Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations (CONSLA).

In 1966, AMWSLAI began operating PAF wide, extending its services even to the remotest units of the Air Force in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

In 1989, AMWSLAI was the first NSSLA to introduce automated dividend operations. In succeeding years, loan processing, records and archives, collection and accounts management and other areas of operation were also computerized.

In 1997, AMWSLAI was among the industry leaders that successfully lobbied for a new law to govern the NSSLA industry, which is the RA 8367, which expands development opportunities for NSSLAs and protects the salary deduction system from violation and unscrupulous manipulation.

Vision and mission:

Today, AMWSLAI's prominent position in the industry serves as a testimony of the pioneering spirit of its founders, and the determination and dedication of all those who carried on the torch of leadership and responsibility in the years that followed.

Like in the past, AMWSLAI continuously seeks to be the premiere non-stock savings and loan association in the Philippines and be continuously recognized as role model of business viability, management excellence and total customer satisfaction.

Sec. Mike Defensor

The scope of AMWSLAI's mission has come to include not only the needs of its members but also that of the community it is part of:

a) To provide affordable financing assistance to its members and give a fair and equitable return on their investments;

b) To preserve and develop the company's reputation for reliability, integrity, financial strength and high quality of customer service;

c) To be a responsible citizen of the community it serves and wherever its business affairs are conducted.

To the Filipino soldier, AMWSLAI's name has become synonymous with strength, stability, reliability, trust and unwavering commitment to render total quality service. But to the country as a whole, this very strength has contributed to building our national economy.

Profile:

Confidence in AMWSLAI's leadership and service improvement programs, as well as steadily increasing demand for its service resulted in growth of membership from 17,500 in 1987 to 225,375 in 2004.

From an initial capitalization of P5,000 in 1956, AMWSLAI's assets increased from P171.25 million in 1987 to an unprecedented P15 billion in 2004.

The past five decades saw a tremendous increase in net income for AMWSLAI — from less than P100 million in 1987 to P2.4 billion in 2004.

In 1987, AMWSLAI granted a total of 11,698 loans with a total value of P83.5 million. In the years that followed, its loan portfolio attained phenomenal growth. In 2004, a record loans output valued at P9.5 billion was registered.

(Turn to page 7)

CHIEF OF STAFF
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Camp Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

On behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), I would like to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the officers and members of the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association (AMWSLAI) on the occasion of your 50th Foundation Anniversary celebration on June 13, 2006.

This is a momentous occasion for the more than 230,000 members of the AMWSLAI as it soars to new heights in its corporate performance. The theme: ***"50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis"*** reflects its continuing pursuit to provide mutual, financial, and educational services to its members in keeping with its vision as a corporate model for business viability, management excellence and total customer satisfaction.

I commend the AMWSLAI Board of Trustees under the leadership of Chairman Colonel Ricardo L. Nolasco, Jr. (Ret) for implementing innovative corporate approaches to further enhance its services. The recent **Loan Amnesty Program (LAP)**, the ***"Bawat Miyembro may Negosyo"*** **(BMN)** micro-business package and the ***"Bawat Miyembro Protektado"*** **(BMP)** in-house hospital replacement program are just but a few of the fresh components in the association's continuing commitment to provide total quality services to its members.

Today, the association has come a long way as it pursues progressive policies to achieve its corporate goal to be the leading non-stock savings and loan association in the country. This is evidenced by AMWSLAI's current corporate resources amounting to over P15 billion, a tremendous leap from the initial capital infusion of P5,000 when the association started operating in 1956.

My best wishes to AMWSLAI for the years to come.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GENEROSO S. SENGA
General, AFP

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
Philippine National Police
Camp Crame, Quezon City

It is a distinct honor and privilege to extend my warmest felicitations to the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association on your 50th Founding Anniversary.**

With over 230,000 members from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Department of National Defense and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, your savings and loan association has become a positive force for the economic empowerment of those who serve in the frontlines of our security and defense establishments.

The theme of your anniversary, ***"50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis"*** is very appropriate, for it highlights the efficient and prompt delivery of services to all your members.

The Philippine National Police shares your jubilation on this significant occasion. We hope that the AMWSLAI will work with even greater dedication, and strive to further strengthen the institution in the years ahead, because a secure and stable savings and loan association is indispensable to the welfare and morale of the men and women who are responsible for the nation's defense and the maintenance of peace and order in our communities.

Congratulations and more power!

ARTURO C LOMIBAO
Police Director General
Chief, Philippine National Police

Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc.

Congratulations to the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. for your continuing commitment to bring about savings consciousness and loan assistance to your members' financial needs.

The growth of AMWSLAI attests not only to your viability as a catalyst for change, but also to your own vision as a hardy group of men and women that aims to help each other and lift each other's spirit by way of special projects and assistance for the betterment of the lives of your members.

To survive for 50 years with all the challenges that came your way is an ultimate triumph of the human spirit.

Happy celebration and Godspeed.

ANGELITO G DOBLE
President

Profile of Sec. Michael Defensor

Secretary Michael Tan Defensor was elected congressman of the Third District of Quezon City in 1995, the youngest member of the House of Representatives. He won reelection in 1998. Defensor soon distinguished himself as a leading member of the group of young legislators in the House.

He was named one of the Top 10 Legislators, New Millennium's Most Outstanding Solon and Most Consistent Outstanding Congressman for three consecutive years by the Gladiators Magazine and Congress Watch Magazine. Reelected in 1998, Defensor was voted by his party-mates as assistant minority floor leader of the 11th Congress.

Defensor was the former secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before he was appointed by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as her chief of staff.

Following Pres. Arroyo's assumption of the presidency, Defensor was named Presidential Adviser on Housing and chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). He was awarded Most Outstanding Cabinet Secretary by the Gawad Paglilingkod Metro Manila Radio Reporters Organization in 2002 in recognition of his performance as chairman of HUDCC. In 1999, he was cited by Asiaweek as one of Asia's Political Leaders of the New Millennium.

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The AMWSLAI has contributed to the financial security and well-being of all its members, while generating capital for enterprise, jobs, housing and even charity projects for the benefit of our soldiers and policemen.

We in the House of Reprsentatives have crafted urgent and significant reform measures that have strengthened our anti-poverty programs and are helping create the new Filipino middle class. We have passed the first ever trillion-peso budget in history, designed to pump-prime the economy and ensure the continuous and expanded delivery of vital public services

As the country's second-largest non-stock savings and loan association with P15 billion in assets, the AMWSLAI is our dependable ally in promoting economic productivity, corporate generosity and good financial management.

In this golden milestone, I wish AMWSLAI and its members a memorable anniversary.

Mabuhay!

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Speaker

Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc.

Society works by putting opportunity and responsibility together!"

This is how AMWSLAI was conceived 50 years ago. The founders saw the opportunity and responsibility to provide financial assistance to the uniformed and civilian employees of the 410th Air Materiel Wing of the Philippine Air Force.

Since then, the association grew in leaps and bounds and this we owe to the more than 230,000 members nationwide from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology for supporting us all through the years.

It has not been an easy road in balancing what is required to have financial sustainability and competing in the market and reaching out to the soldiers and policemen in the field. But knowing the number of people and families we've helped, every step of collective hard work and perseverance was all worth it.

In behalf of our Board of Trustees and the officers and staff, we SALUTE all our members and patrons who believed in us and remained undaunted and unfazed even during the adversities of times.

Today, we celebrate a new beginning, a renewal and strengthening of our commitment, to continue to serve and protect the interests of our members.

We would like also to extend our sincere appreciation to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission for providing us guidance. We thank also the Department of National Defense, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Philippine Veterans Bank and Philippine Postal Corporation and all our banking and service partners for supporting and joining us in this Golden and memorable year of celebration.

GOD BLESS US ALL!!!

COL RICARDO L NOLASCO JR PAF (RET)
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Republic of the Philippines Department of National Defense

I convey my heartfelt felicitations to the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI)** on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary

From its humble beginnings in 1956, **AMWSLAI**, has grown into a stable and dynamic financial institution that offers a wide-range of savings and credit-loan facilities to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and the various agencies of the Department of National Defense and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

In its five decades of existence, **AMWSLAI** has established a reputable status, not just in the area of financial services delivery, but also in the area of strengthening corporate social responsibility. It has succeeded not only in helping uplift the economic well-being of its members and encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship. It has also launched numerous endeavors that have benefited our communities.

As **AMWSLAI** continues to pursue excellence and reliability in the delivery of financial services, I am certain that you will develop a more sound and agile marketing organization that is truly responsive to customer needs and expectations.

Congratulations and more power!

AVELINO J. CRUZ, JR.
Secretary

Republic of the Philippines Department of the Interior and Local Government

I extend my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI)** on their **50th Aniversary** on June 13, 2006.

I am heartened that the 50 years of service you have extended to your members have been marked with excellence through programs and projects, in your desire to help them economically and financially.

It is a common knowledge that members of the uniformed sector needed assistance with their meager pay from government which is more often than not just enough to meet their families' needs.

It is interesting to note that you are now embarking on a project that would give your members opportunity to become entrepreneurs of sort for which I salute you for your innovativeness. It is my hope that your projects, particularly the *Bawat Miyembro may Negosyo* program, will serve as a stepping stone for your enterprising members to move on with their lives as independent businessmen and entrepreneurs.

May **AMWSLAI** continue in its commitment to serve its members even as it strives to provide them with benefits for money they invest in.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

RONALDO V. PUNO
Secretary

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Manila Office of the Governor

Congratulations to Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc., for marking its 50th year of service!

Your anniversary theme, "50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis" sums up all the hard work and dedication you have shown in your continuing mission to be of genuine service to your members, as well as your contribution to the growth of the non-stock savings and loan association (NSSLA) industry.

I commend you for your efforts to promote the growth of NSSLAs as viable sources of credit and other financial services. From a single office with an initial capital of P5,000 when it first opened in 1956, the association expanded nationwide with a current network of 34 branches and total resources of P15 billion, and servicing over 230,000 members.

I call on the association to remain steadfast in responding to the needs of its members. It is vital that you continuously uphold ethical practices that will generate greater confidence and trust of the public whom you serve.

I hope you will continue to work harder to further improve operations and boost your capability and efficiency as an effective channel of funds. This way, you can better serve and help our countrymen attain a productive and better life.

I wish you success in all your undertakings.

AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
Governor

CHIEF OF STAFF Armed Forces of the Philippines Camp Emilio Aguinaldo Quezon City

On behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), I would like to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the officers and members of the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association (AMWSLAI) on the occasion of your 50th Foundation Anniversary celebration on June 13, 2006.

This is a momentous occasion for the more than 230,000 members of the AMWSLAI as it soars to new heights in its corporate performance. The theme: ***"50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis"*** reflects its continuing pursuit to provide mutual, financial, and educational services to its members in keeping with its vision as a corporate model for business viability, management excellence and total customer satisfaction.

I commend the AMWSLAI Board of Trustees under the leadership of Chairman Colonel Ricardo L. Nolasco, Jr. (Ret) for implementing innovative corporate approaches to further enhance its services. The recent **Loan Amnesty Program (LAP)**, the ***"Bawat Miyembro may Negosyo"*** **(BMN)** micro-business package and the ***"Bawat Miyembro Protektado"*** **(BMP)** in-house hospital replacement program are just but a few of the fresh components in the association's continuing commitment to provide total quality services to its members.

Today, the association has come a long way as it pursues progressive policies to achieve its corporate goal to be the leading non-stock savings and loan association in the country. This is evidenced by AMWSLAI's current corporate resources amounting to over P15 billion, a tremendous leap from the initial capital infusion of P5,000 when the association started operating in 1956

My best wishes to AMWSLAI for the years to come.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GENEROSO S. SENGA
General, AFP

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF Philippine National Police Camp Crame, Quezon City

It is a distinct honor and privilege to extend my warmest felicitations to the **Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association on your 50th Founding Anniversary.**

With over 230,000 members from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Department of National Defense and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, your savings and loan association has become a positive force for the economic empowerment of those who serve in the frontlines of our security and defense establishments.

The theme of your anniversary, ***"50 Taon Ginintuang Serbisyo sa Kawal at Pulis"*** is very appropriate, for it highlights the efficient and prompt delivery of services to all your members.

The Philippine National Police shares your jubilation on this significant occasion. We hope that the AMWSLAI will work with even greater dedication, and strive to further strengthen the institution in the years ahead, because a secure and stable savings and loan association is indispensable to the welfare and morale of the men and women who are responsible for the nation's defense and the maintenance of peace and order in our communities.

Congratulations and more power!

ARTURO C LOMIBAO
Police Director General
Chief, Philippine National Police

Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc.

Congratulations to the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. for your continuing commitment to bring about savings consciousness and loan assistance to your members' financial needs.

The growth of AMWSLAI attests not only to your viability as a catalyst for change, but also to your own vision as a hardy group of men and women that aims to help each other and lift each other's spirit by way of special projects and assistance for the betterment of the lives of your members.

To survive for 50 years with all the challenges that came your way is an ultimate triumph of the human spirit.

Happy celebration and Godspeed

ANGELITO G DOBLE
President

Profile of Sec. Michael Defensor

Secretary Michael Tan Defenso was [illegible]cte congressman of the Third District of Quezon City 1995, the youngest member of the House [illegible] Representatives. He won reelection in 1998. Defenso soon distinguished himself as a leading member of the group of young legislators in the House.

He was named one of the Top 10 Legislato[illegible], New Millennium's Most Outstanding Solor and Most Consistent Outstanding Congressman for three consecutive years by the Gladiators Magazine and Congress Watch Magazine. Reelected in 1998, Defenso was voted by his party-mates as assistant minority flo[illegible] leader of the 11th Congress

Defensor was the former secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before he was appointed by Pres Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as her chief of staff.

Following Pres Arroyo's assumption of the presidency, Defensor was named Presidential Adviser on Housing and chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). He was awarded Most Outstanding Cabinet Secretary by the Gawad Paglilingkod Metro Manila Radio Reporters Organization in 2002 in recognition of his performance as chairman of HUDCC. In 1999, he was cited by Asiaweek as one of Asia's Political Leaders of the New Millennium.

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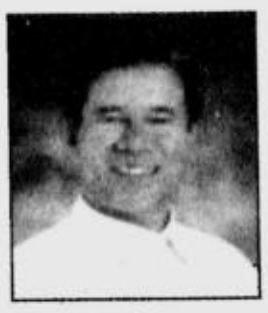
The AMWSLAI Board of Trustees

Col Ricardo L. Nolasco Jr.
Chairman

Ruben C. Estepa
Vice Chairman



Cedric V. Reyes
Secretary

Domingo E. Dimapilis
Treasurer

Morado O. Mercado
Auditor

Ismael A. Abad
Trustee

Rolando S. Cacabelos
Trustee

Thaddeus P. Estalilla
Trustee

Antonio S. Gumba
Trustee

Ricardo P. Perido
Trustee

Angel E. Tapac
Trustee

Cesar S. Toledanes
Trustee

AMWSLAI Management Officers *(From left): Socorro T. Gustilo, Manager-Head Office Branch; Rina Michaela J. Galido, Manager for Human Resources and Administration; Vivian F. Gonzales, Deputy Chief Operating Officer; Col. Carlyzar S. Divinagracia (GSC), Acting President and Chief Executive Officer; Irene M. Sarmiento, Manager for Audit; Vivian H. Pesebre, Manager for Management Information Service; and Juliet V. Cadiz, Manager-Villamor Air Base Branch.*

Program of Activities

Tuesday, 13 June 2006

6:30 p.m. Invocation
Philippine National Anthem
AMWSLAI Hymn .....
AMWSLAI Choir
Presentation of Awards
Sec. MICHAEL T DEFENSOR ,
Presidential Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Guest of Honor and Speaker
assisted by
COL RICARDO L NOLASCO, JR PAF (RET)
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Turnover of AMWSLAI Commemorative Stamp
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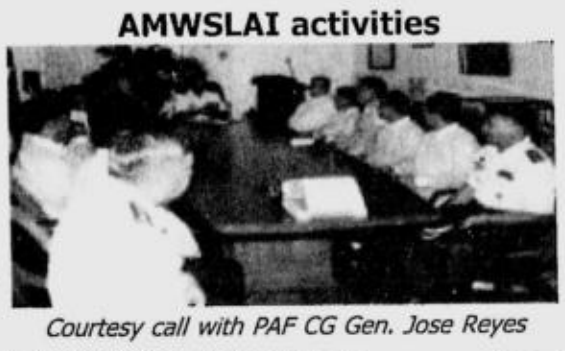
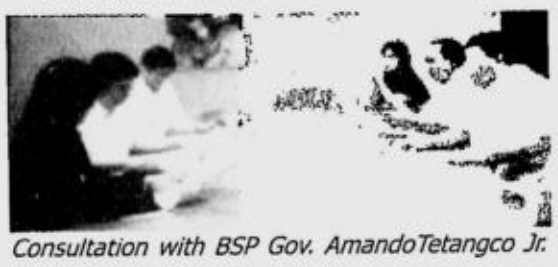
AMWSLAI activities



Courtesy call with PAF CG Gen. Jose Reyes



Consultation with BSP Gov. AmandoTetangco Jr.

BMN launching with AFP CS Generoso Senga

National Shoper's Choice Awards winner

AMWSLAI marks 50th Foundation Anniversary today...

(From page 6)

Capital contribution amounted to P64.14 million in 1987 and soar to an impressive P14 billion in 2004.

Plans and programs:

AMWSLAI once more is ready to carry out its plans and programs.

The Board of Trustees commits to undertake the much- needed changes in AMWSLAI to institute decisive and meaningful reforms within AMWSLAI.

Members shall be assured of better economic prospects, more welfare program as well as improvements in the electoral process.

Offices:

AMWSLAI has pursued its expansion drive by putting up offices in strategic areas all over the offices are all manned by efficient and capable AMWSLAI employees. To date, it has a total of 34 offices nationwide servicing the needs of its members.

Board of Trustees:

The composition of the highest policy making body of AMWSLAI is the 11 Board of Trustees headed by the Chairman of the Board, Retired PAF Col. Ricardo L. Nolasco, Jr.

Senior Management Officers:

The Senior Management Officers is headed by the President and Chief Executive Officer, Col. Carlyzar S. Divinagracia, PAF (GSC).

Products and services:

To meet the needs and demands of its members, AMWSLAI offers the following services:

Loans:

Consumption Loan — Maximum loanable amount is 12 times the member's gross monthly pay with up to 48 months repayment term.

Emergency Loan — Maximum loanable amount of about P15,000 net with 12 months to 60 months repayment term.

Capital-backed Loan — Loan that is guaranteed by the member's total capital contribution.

Real Estate/Collateral Loan — Maximum loanable amount of about P1.5 million with up to 10 years repayment term.

Microfinance Loan — This type of loan is open to members and their spouses who wish to set-up a micro-business; maximum loanable amount is P25,000, with up to 12 months repayment term.

Special Products:

Bawat Miyembro Protektado (BMP) — It is an income replacement program in case of hospital confinement due to accident, injury or sickness, wherein enrolled member is given P1,000 daily cash benefit for each day of confinement up to 365 days and P2,000 cash benefit a day for a maximum of 30 days for confinement in an Intensive Care Unit.

Mutual Benefit Fund (MBF) — This provides immediate financial assistance of P50,000 to the beneficiaries of a deceased AMWSLAI member for only P50-monthly contribution for 120 months.

Social and community commitments

• Financed the construction of more than 4,000 housing units in the Airmen's Villages of Villamor, Basa and Fernando Air Base, and at the Signal Village in Taguig.

• Financed the acquisition of more than 5,000 jeepneys and tricycles, 3,000 small business projects like market stalls, auto repair shops, etc. and more than 1,000 agro-livestock ventures.

• Sponsored more than 100 college scholars to the graduation line thru the AMWSLAI Scholarship Fund.

• Regularly supports the activities of the Philippine National Red Cross, the AFP Medical Center, Philippine Marine Corps Medical Aide Stations, PAF General Hospital and other field hospitals of the AFP, the AFP and Ladies Club of major services, and other charity projects.

• AMWSLAI has paid a total of P94.5 million worth of cash abuloy to beneficiaries of 1,891 deceased Mutual Benefit Fund members/ AFP personnel for calendar years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

• Due to rational management of funds and efficacies gained from operations, AMWSLAI, thru the CONSLA (composed of more than 120 NSSLAs) -- has consistently been cited as one of the best-run entities.

AMWSLAI mascot. *Gilas is the name of the new mascot of the AMWSLAI which was conceptualized by Raymond Nolasco. The name was chosen by the AMWSLAI Board of Trustees from more than 150 entries in the "Name the Mascot" contest which was launched three months ago. The member-winner said Gilas symbolizes power, strength and hope.*

AMWSLAI COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS. *Top photos show the two stamps of AMWSLAI to commemorate the 50th Foundation Anniversary of the association.*

The AMWSLAI Incorporators

AUGUSTO L JURADO
JUAN B GUEVARA
FRANCISCO N PUNZALAN
ANTONIO G TAMAYO
RICARDO S MENDOZA
PEDRO C ARGOSINO
AURELIO P CAMACHO

AMWSLAI Branch and Liaison Offices

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
AMWSLAI Building corner Boni Serrano & 18th Avenues, Murphy, Cubao Quezon City
911-30-30 (connecting all departments)

BRANCH and LIAISON OFFICES

BACOLOD OFFICE
Door 1, AA Bldg, Magsaysay Ave. Singcang, Bacolod City * Contact No.: (034) 434-6108

BENGUET OFFICE
Unit 202, 2nd Floor, D & L Bldg. 2, JC 109 Km 5, Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet
Contact Nos.: (074) 422-7366; (074) 309-3660

BASA AIR BASE OFFICE
Concessionaires' Area, Floridablanca, Pampanga
Contact Nos.: (045) 970-0299 local 8560 to 61

CABANATUAN BRANCH
Del Pilar Extension, Barrio Sangitan, Cabanatuan City
Contact Nos.: (044) 463-8833; (044) 600-2992

CAGAYAN DE ORO BRANCH
Misamis Oriental, Physicians' Nurses Foundation, Inc. Bldg., Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
Contact Nos.: (088) 858-2903; (088) 858-3696

CALAPAN OFFICE
Rizal St., Calapan, Oriental Mindoro
Contact Nos.: (043) 288-3984; (043) 441-0499

CAMP AGUINALDO BRANCH
AFPCES Building CGEA, Quezon City
Contact Nos.: 912-3030; 421-3997

CAMP OLIVAS OFFICE
Ofring's Building, McArthur Highway, San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga
Contact No.: (045) 860-5381

CATBALOGAN OFFICE
3rd Floor, Moratal Bldg. corner San Francisco Street & Mabini Avenue, Catbalogan, Western Samar
Contact No : (055) 251-5131

CAVITE BRANCH
Padre Gomez Street, Cavite
Contact Nos.: (046) 431-4453; (046) 504-1585

CEBU CITY BRANCH
Lot 68-B, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City
Contact Nos.: (032) 233-3285; (032) 233-0298

CLARK BRANCH
Ground Floor Building, 2127 CSEZ Clarkfield, Pampanga
Contact Nos.: (045) 599-3293; (045) 599-3857

COTABATO BRANCH
Sinsuat Ave., Rosario Heights, Cotabato City
Contact Nos.: (064) 421-1466; (064) 421-1572

DAVAO CITY BRANCH
Lot 5 Blk 15, Maya St., Ecoland Subdivision Phase 2, Davao City
Contact Nos.: (082) 299-3892; (082) 299-3768

DUMAGUETE OFFICE
Ponce de Leon Compound, Tubod, Dumaguete City
Contact No.: (035) 225-7084

ILOILO CITY BRANCH
Unit 1, Ground Floor Lady of Perpetual Help Building Jalandoni Street, Iloilo City
Contact Nos.: (033) 336-0673; (033) 336-8798

IMUS OFFICE
No. 36 Gen Satorre Street, Poblacion I-B, Imus, Cavite
Contact No.: (046) 472-2030

ISABELA OFFICE
Barangay San Fermin, Cauayan, Isabela
Contact Nos.: (078) 652-0330; (078) 652-0332

LAGUNA BRANCH
Don Bosco Street, Mayapa, Calamba, Laguna
Contact Nos.: (049) 834-4135;(049) 531-4208

LA UNION OFFICE
Sevilla Center, National Highway San Fernando City, La Union
Contact Nos.: (072) 888-0275; (072) 888-0276

LEGASPI CITY BRANCH
Rizal Street, Legaspi City
(Infront of Ago Medical Hospital)
Contact Nos.: (052) 481-1579 (052) 820-[illegible]

LUCENA OFFICE
1370 Purok Masagana, Bgy. Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
Contact Nos.:(042) 373-6932; (042)373-6086

LIPA CITY BRANCH
Barangay Sico, National Highway, Lipa City, Batangas (Infront of Fernando Air Base)
Contact Nos.:(043) 404-0068 to 70

NAGA BRANCH
SR Romero Building, Peñafrancia Avenue, Naga City
Tel. Nos.: (054) 472-6666; 472-7477

OLONGAPO OFFICE
2741 Rizal Ave., West Bajac-Bajac, Olongapo City
Contact Nos.: (047) 224-1895

PANGASINAN OFFICE
54 Perez Boulevard, Dagupan City
Contact Nos.: (075) 522-5694; (075) 515-6139

PMA OFFICE
Concessionaire's Area, Philippine Military Academy Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City
Contact Nos.: (074) 446-5690 (074) 446-5691

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY BRANCH
Fernando Street, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Contact Nos.: (048) [illegible]-7875; (048) 434-3159

TACLOBAN BRANCH
2nd Floor, [illegible] Building corner Avenida Veteranos and Del Pilar Street, Tacloban City
Contact Nos.: (053) [illegible]1-1485 to 87

TAGBILARAN OFFICE
[illegible] Avenue, Dela Cruz Street, Tagbilaran City
Contact Nos.: (038) [illegible] 411-4529

TARLAC BRANCH
No. [illegible] Brgy. San Francisco, McArthur Highway, Tarlac City
Contact Nos.: (045) 985-0465; (045) 985-0210

TUGUEGARAO OFFICE
Door No. 4, Dizon Apt., Diversion Road, Caritan Centre Tuguegarao, Cagayan * Contact No.: (078) 844-1594

VILLAMOR AIR BASE BRANCH
Corner 4th and Manlunas Sts, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City
Contact No.: 853-3030

ZAMBOANGA CITY BRANCH
Sta Maria, Zamboanga City
(Infront of Edwin Andrews Air Base)
Contact Nos.: (062) 993-2325; (062) 991-5771

Acknowledgement

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Red Fox Security, Inc.
Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation-Tektite Branch
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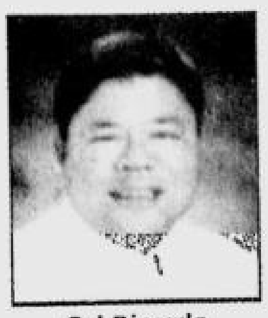
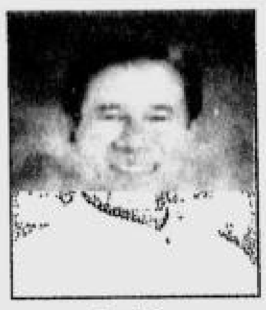
The AMWSLAI Board of Trustees



Col Ricardo L. Nolasco Jr.
Chairman

Ruben C. Estepa
Vice Chairman

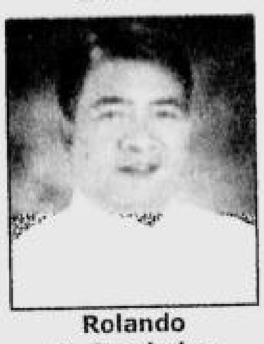


Cedric V. Reyes
Secretary

Domingo E. Dimapilis
Treasurer

Morado O. Mercado
Auditor

Ismael A. Abad
Trustee



Rolando S. Cacabelos
Trustee

Thaddeus P. Estalilla
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Antonio S. Gumba
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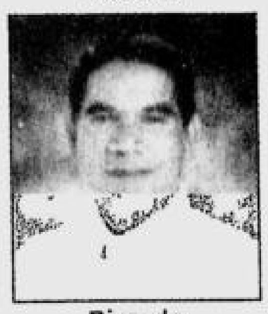

Ricardo P. Perido
Trustee

Angel E. Tapac
Trustee

Cesar S. Toledanes
Trustee

Program of Activities

Tuesday, 13 June 2006

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Presidential Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Guest of Honor and Speaker
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Chairman of the Board of Trustees, AMWSLAI

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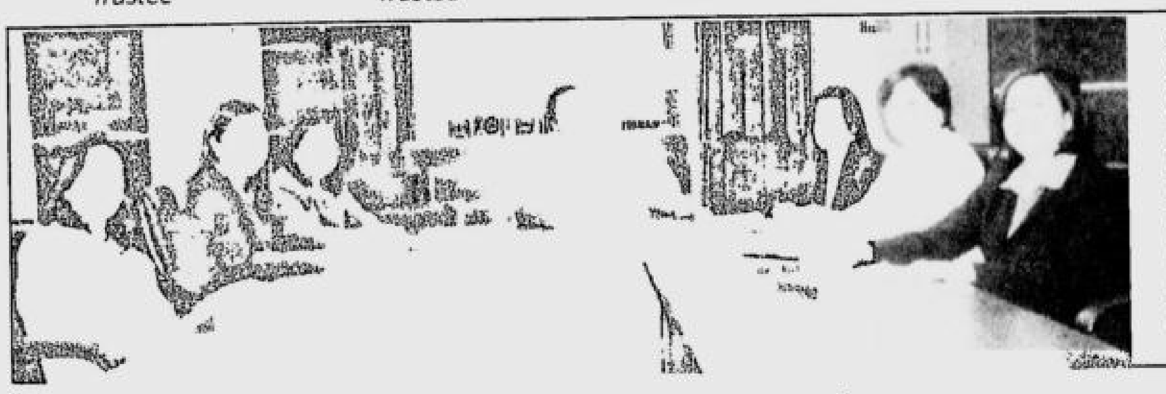
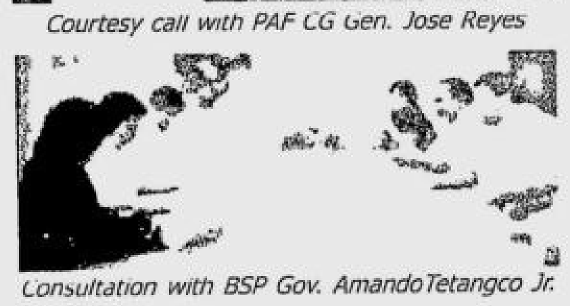


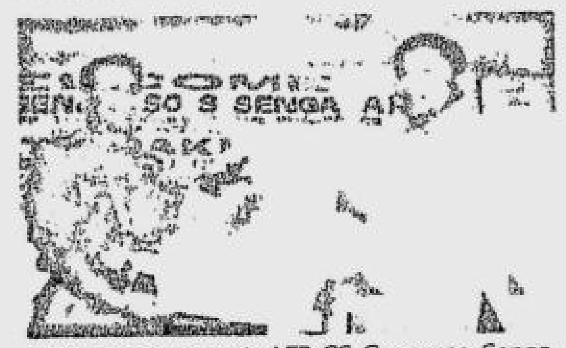
***AMWSLAI Management Officers** (From left): Socorro T. Gustilo, Manager-Head Office Branch; Rina Michaela J. Galido, Manager for Human Resources and Administration; Vivian F. Gonzales, Deputy Chief Operating Officer; Col. Carlyzar S. Divinagracia (GSC), Acting President and Chief Executive Officer; Irene M. Sarmiento, Manager for Audit; Vivian H. Pesebre, Manager for Management Information Service; and Juliet V. Cadiz, Manager-Villamor Air Base Branch.*

AMWSLAI activities

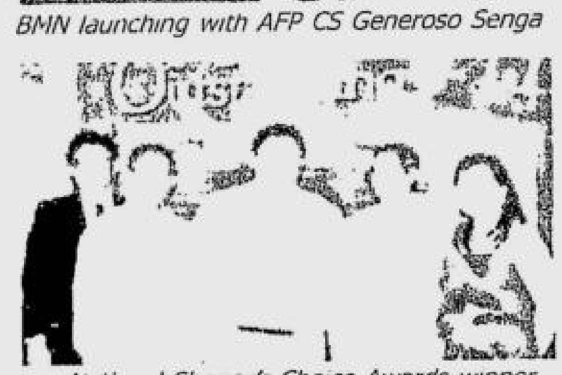
Courtesy call with PAF CG Gen. Jose Reyes



Consultation with BSP Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr.



BMN launching with AFP CS Generoso Senga



National Shoper's Choice Awards winner

AMWSLAI marks 50th Foundation Anniversary today...

(From page 6)

Capital contribution amounted to P64.14 million in 1987 and soar to an impressive P14 billion in 2004.

Plans and programs:

AMWSLAI once more is ready to carry out its plans and programs.

The Board of Trustees commits to undertake the much- needed changes in AMWSLAI to institute decisive and meaningful reforms within AMWSLAI.

Members shall be assured of better economic prospects, more welfare program as well as improvements in the electoral process.

Offices:

AMWSLAI has pursued its expansion drive by putting up offices in strategic areas all over the offices are all manned by efficient and capable AMWSLAI employees. To date, it has a total of 34 offices nationwide servicing the needs of its members.

Board of Trustees:

The composition of the highest policy making body of AMWSLAI is the 11 Board of Trustees headed by the Chairman of the Board, Retired PAF Col. Ricardo L. Nolasco, Jr.

Senior Management Officers:

The Senior Management Officers is headed by the President and Chief Executive Officer, Col. Carlyzar S. Divinagracia, PAF (GSC).

Products and services:

To meet the needs and demands of its members, AMWSLAI offers the following services:

Loans:

Consumption Loan - Maximum loanable amount is 12 times the member's gross monthly pay with up to 48 months repayment term.

Emergency Loan - Maximum loanable amount of about P15,000 net with 12 months to 60 months repayment term.

Capital-backed Loan — Loan that is guaranteed by the member's total capital contribution.

Real Estate/Collateral Loan - - Maximum loanable amount of about P1.5 million with up to 10 years repayment term.

Microfinance Loan

This type of loan is open to members and their spouses who wish to set-up a micro-business; maximum loanable amount is P25,000, with up to 12 months repayment term.

Special Products:

Bawat Miyembro Protektado (BMP)-- It is an income replacement program in case of hospital confinement due to accident, injury or sickness, wherein enrolled member is given P1,000 daily cash benefit for each day of confinement up to 365 days and P2,000 cash benefit a day for a maximum of 30 days for confinement in an Intensive Care Unit.

Mutual Benefit Fund (MBF) - This provides immediate financial assistance of P50,000 to the beneficiaries of a deceased AMWSLAI member for only P50-monthly contribution for 120 months

Social and community commitments

• Financed the construction of more than 4,000 housing units in the Airmen's Villages of Villamor, Basa and Fernando Air Base, and at the Signal Village in Taguig.

• Financed the acquisition of more than 5,000 jeepneys and tricycles, 3,000 small business projects like market stalls, auto repair shops, etc. and more than 1,000 agro-livestock ventures.

• Sponsored more than 100 college scholars to the graduation line thru the AMWSLAI Scholarship Fund.

• Regularly supports the activities of the Philippine National Red Cross, the AFP Medical Center, Philippine Marine Corps Medical Aide Stations, PAF General Hospital and other field hospitals of the AFP, the AFP and Ladies Club of major services, and other charity projects.

• AMWSLAI has paid a total of P94.5 million worth of cash abuloy to beneficiaries of 1,891 deceased Mutual Benefit Fund members/ AFP personnel for calendar years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

• Due to rational management of funds and efficacies gained from operations, AMWSLAI, thru the CONSLA (composed of more than 120 NSSLAs) - has consistently been cited as one of the best-run entities.

***AMWSLAI COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS.** Top photos show the two stamps of AMWSLAI to commemorate the 50th Foundation Anniversary of the association.*

***AMWSLAI mascot.** Gilas is the name of the new mascot of the AMWSLAI which was conceptualized by Raymond Nolasco. The name was chosen by the AMWSLAI Board of Trustees from more than 150 entries in the "Name the Mascot" contest which was launched three months ago. The member-winner said Gilas symbolizes power, strength and hope.*

The AMWSLAI Incorporators

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JUAN B GUEVARA
FRANCISCO N PUNZALAN
ANTONIO G TAMAYO
RICARDO S MENDOZA
PEDRO C ARGOSINO
AURELIO P CAMACHO

AMWSLAI Branch and Liaison Offices

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
AMWSLAI Building corner Boni Serrano & 18th Avenues, Murphy, Cubao Quezon City
911-30-30 (connecting all departments)

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BUSINESS

Napocor rates in Luzon, Mindanao to drop

Increased rainfall in second semester to allow operation of hydro plants

By Abigail L. Ho

THE RATES CHARGED BY NATIONAl Power Corp. on its customers in Luzon and Mindanao may go down by as much as 35 centavos and 27 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh), respectively, in the second half of the year.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said more rains during the July-December period would allow the state firm to operate its hydropower plants at optimal capacity, resulting in lower power production cost.

Napocor's time-of-use (TOU) rates in Luzon could go down by 35.12 centavos per kWh from P4.0753 per kWh in the first half to P3.7241 per kWh in the second semester.

In Mindanao, Napocor's TOU rates could drop by 27.58 centavos per kWh to only P1.9690 per kWh in the last six months of the year from P2.2448 per kWh in the January-June period.

There would be no rate reductions in the Visayas grid, however, due to the lack of hydropower facilities in the region.

For the Luzon and Mindanao grids, Del Callar said the savings Napocor would generate could be passed on to end-users by way of lower electricity rates or lower product prices.

Distribution utilities, including Manila Electric Co., are mandated to avail themselves of Napocor's TOU rates.

However, Meralco, in particular, still could not pass on its TOU savings to end-users as the Energy Regulatory Commission had yet to approve its TOU application.

But other customers directly connected to Napocor—including bulk power users such as paper mills, food manufacturers and the like—could reduce their production costs because of Napocor's lower TOU rates for the second half.

These savings would allow these establishments to reduce the prices of their end-products, Del Callar said.

Also, the dispatch of more power from hydropower facilities would ease the impact of escalating oil prices on power generation costs, he said.

"Since 2005, (Napocor) has significantly lowered the use of oil-based generation capacities, shifting the load to more cost-effective power generation plants such as hydro, geothermal and natural gas. This has also lessened the impact of the continuous increases of oil prices on power generation costs," he said.

EXCEPT for a brief period in the '70s, the last time this nation produced enough rice to feed itself was in 1903. REUTERS

PNOC unit keen on putting up biodiesel plant

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. ENERGY DEvelopment Corp. (PNOC-EDC) is looking at setting up a biodiesel refinery using as feedstock the jatropha plant, commonly known in the country as *tuba-tuba*.

But before working out the details of the biodiesel plant, Eduardo Manalac, president and chief executive of parent firm PNOC, said the company had to be assured of sufficient supply of feedstock for the refinery.

"Right now, our plan involves the plantation approach. We think the success of the jatropha initiative lies in making sure that the production cost is low so that it can be competitive in price. To do that, we have to do it in a commercial plantation," he said.

"The key is to look for contiguous marginal lands in the right climate areas, which is mostly in the eastern half of Luzon, Visayas and most of Mindanao," he added.

PNOC-EDC currently has a pilot jatropha propagation project in Cabangcalan, Negros Occidental.

Agnes de Jesus, PNOC-EDC vice president for external relations, said that for that project, the state firm planted three varieties of jatropha to determine which would provide the maximum oil yield.

Once determined, she said that variety would be used in PNOC-EDC's own jatropha nursery.

She said a minimum of 5 liters of biodiesel could be produced from one hectare of jatropha.

"But the variety we planted can produce between 10 liters and 13 liters per hectare. At 5 liters, that should be enough, but we're looking at the variety that can yield the most oil," she said.

Manalac said a 250,000-tons-a-year refinery would need at least 118,000 hectares of land planted with jatropha. *Abigail L. Ho*

'Off-trading' of foreign, local stocks proposed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange (PSE) said that it would be studying the proposal of a group of stock analysts to carry on the trading of local and foreign stocks outside of the local bourse's regular trading hours in the morning.

The proposed practice, which is also called "off-trading," was brought up by members of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines (Asap).

From Monday to Friday, the PSE conducts trade for less than three hours, or from 9:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

Asap director Astro del Castillo said that the organization revived its 1998 proposal for "off-trading" to take advantage of the increasing volumes being traded in the local and global markets.

Off-trading is also seen to maximize the potential benefits from cross-border listing between the PSE and foreign exchanges, such as the Stock Exchange of Singapore or the Australian Stock Exchange.

"We have to take advantage of the situation, given the surge in volumes," Del Castillo said. "If we don't put ourselves ahead of the pack, we will be left behind."

Net foreign buying in the stock market from January to May ballooned 109.6 percent to P25 billion, more than double the P11.9 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Average daily value turnover hit P2.03 billion in the first five months of the year, from P1.56 billion in 2005.

Currently, only a handful of brokers have online trading facilities that allow them to buy and sell Philippine stocks for investors in the United States or other Asian markets, and "cross" or formalize the transfer of shares at the PSE the next day.

Under the off-trading proposal, Asap will encourage all brokers to create their own websites or tap into the PSE's trading terminals to minimize the cost of adding more personnel to conduct trades in the afternoon, Del Castillo said.

In 2002, the PSE tried to extend trading from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. But due to weak volumes and increased costs, the PSE dropped the practice and returned to its morning schedule.

"It was an experiment, but the market conditions then were not conducive," PSE president Francis Lim said. "I have encouraged Asap to study the matter further. Any measure is worth considering if it will boost volumes."

Rice sufficiency fight seen to be decided in bedroom

THE COUNTRY'S BATTLE TO BECOME SELFsufficient in rice will be won in the bedroom as much as on the farm.

The country consumes 30,000 tons of rice daily, with each Filipino eating 115 kilos or more than two sacks a year, according to Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban.

"Except for a brief period in the '70s, the last time this nation produced enough rice to feed itself was in 1903—the year the Wright brothers invented the airplane," he told a group of farmers last month.

Fluctuating rains, lack of funds and a rapidly rising population have made the country one of the world's largest rice importers.

The developing Southeast Asian country bought 1.8 million tons or 16 percent of its requirement last year and is expected to buy 1.6 million tons this year.

If the Philippines wants to meet its own rice needs, one of the best ways, analysts say, is to put a brake on its population—now at 85 million and growing at around 1.95 percent per year.

The National Statistics Office sees the number of Filipinos rising to nearly 142 million by 2040, even if the annual growth rate slows to around one percent in 2030-40.

"Population growth is the wild card. It has to be reduced to 1.4-1.5 percent," said Pablito Villegas, president and chief executive officer of agricultural think tank Meganomics Specialists International.

"In the short-run, maybe it's cheaper to import. But in the long term, considering that rice is a staple food, we have to aim for sustainable food security."

The task of slowing one of Asia's fastest birth rates is complicated by the country's powerful Roman Catholic Church, which frowns on the use of artificial contraception.

The Philippines is predominantly Catholic and the government, anxious not to lose the support of influential bishops, has made no serious attempt to tackle the population issue, preferring to promote natural family planning.

The Philippines also has to battle nature.

Experts from the Philippine Rice Research Institute and the International Rice Research Institute say the main obstacles to rice sufficiency are geographic and implacable.

"The fundamental factors behind Philippine rice imports—relatively small amounts of land and lack of river deltas—can't be changed," according to the book "Why Does the Philippines Import Rice?" released by the two institutes.

Data from the agriculture department shows the country was able to raise its rice output over the last 10 years, except in 1998 when the harvest was hit by drought caused by the El Niño weather pattern.

The country's unmilled rice output rose 38.5 percent last year to 14.6 million tons from 10.541 tons in 1995. Yet supply was not able to cope with demand, forcing imports. Panganiban said he expected rice output to level off with demand by expanding irrigation facilities and boosting production of white corn, which is used as a rice alternative in some parts of the country.

"Whether we are going to be self-sufficient or not, the National Food Authority will always have a buffer stock of at least 350,000 tons," he told a recent news conference.

"Production and consumption can level off but you still have to import because of the so-called buffer stocking position, and that will always be a function of the National Food Authority." The NFA, a state agency, buys rice for its buffer in the third quarter, usually the lean months in local rice production.

The Philippines is banking on a repeat of the so-called Green Revolution of the late 1970s when irrigation facilities were improved, better-yielding rice varieties were developed and more fertilizers were used by farmers to boost harvests.

During this time, the Philippines was able to feed itself and even exported small quantities. *Reuters*

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BIR urged to plug excise tax leaks

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue is urged to conduct an ocular inspection of major establishments selling cigarettes and liquor in line with efforts to plug excise tax leakages that cost the government billions of pesos yearly.

The National Tax Research Center (NTRC), an attached agency of the Department of Finance tasked with conducting tax-related studies, said revenue personnel had to conduct regular visits of large business establishments, particularly those selling so-called sin products. They should not rely heavily on income declarations of these firms in determining their tax liabilities.

In its list of recommendations to enhance tax collection, the NTRC said duty-free shops should be among the first ones to be inspected. Not only will ocular inspection detect tax delinquency but also smuggling, the NTRC said.

BUÑAG

Through ocular inspection, the BIR would be able to determine the volume of cigarettes and alcohol sold in these establishments, as well as their selling prices. These types of information could be matched with the income and tax declarations submitted by these firms to the BIR.

Some quarters suspect that there may be several cases of excise tax evasion in recent months given the failure of the BIR to meet its April target despite the recent increase in excise tax rates following the implementation of the sin tax law last year.

The BIR and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) were expected to have delivered a combined P15 billion in additional excise tax collection last year with the implementation of the sin tax law. However, the two agencies turned in only about half of the target.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag said the relatively low excise tax collection from cigarettes and alcohol might be due to the "tactics employed by firms to reduce their tax liabilities."

One strategy, aside from under declaration, is the front-loading of the cigarettes and liquor stocks withdrawn from factories. Since excise tax is imposed upon release of products from manufacturing sites, the companies involved could release huge volumes in advance to avoid higher tax rates.

Under the Sin Tax Law, excise tax rates slapped on cigarettes and alcohol increase every two years.

"I'M EXCITED ABOUT STARTING MY OWN INTERNET CAFE BUSINESS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST?"

FIND OUT HOW ON JUNE 14.

intel

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Relax, focus and breathe

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Part 2

MOST MIND-BODY EXERCISE FORMS HAVE three similar characteristics to achieve a healthy balance between mind, body and spirit. These are mindfulness, correct physical form and breathing, according to Michele Hebert, media spokesperson for mind-body integration for the American Council on Exercise.

Each component affects the other. When you are under stress, your breathing becomes rapid and shallow and your muscles tense up. Conversely, if you purposely slow breathing and movement, you relieve a stressful mind.

Mara Carrico, author of Yoga Journal's Yoga Basics, gives a simple guideline to remember while doing mind-body exercises. Relax (for the body), focus (for the mind) and breathe (for the spirit). "Body, mind, spirit—relax, focus and breathe."

Beyond these three common characteristics, each mind-body format has different techniques, emphasis and health benefits. Here is a brief overview of the four most common programs available in the country.

Yoga

Hatha yoga is the physical side of a 6,000-year-old philosophy. The exercises were originally invented so yoga practitioners could hold their bodies in static positions for long periods while they were meditating.

Yoga exercises or *asanas* are usually held for 30-60 seconds while you concentrate on specific breathing patterns. Exercises are done sitting, lying down or standing.

It is not true that yoga is only "stretching" because it requires both strength and flexibility to stay in the pose. It is also not true that yoga is completely safe. You can be injured if you do a pose that is too advanced for you. Yoga poses should be modified to fit physical limitations like a tight lower back or weak leg muscles.

There are many different types of yoga, ranging from relaxed and gentle (Viniyoga and Kripalu) to moderately intense (Sivananda and Iyengar) to extremely vigorous and aerobic (Ashtanga).

Yoga is good for developing flexibility, strength in static positions, stress management, awareness of the breath and focus.

Qi Gong

Qi Gong or Chi Kung is an umbrella term that encompasses all Chinese exercises for spirituality, health and martial arts. The Chinese government has determined there are 5,000 Qi Gong styles. Wushu, Kung Fu and Tai Chi are formats that evolved from Qi Gong.

Movements can range from very simple and uncomplicated to detailed and demanding. Simple Qi Gong exercises are a good way for sedentary people to begin exercise. People with chronic medical conditions can also benefit from the practice of Qi Gong because it focuses on breathing to increase energy pathways.

Basically, Qi Gong involves paying attention to the body and staying aware of the breath while doing a series of seated, standing or supine movements.

Tai Chi

Tai chi chuan, the most popular form of tai chi, is a series of 108 slow-paced choreographed movements that resemble a dance. Though not easy to learn, they are effective for developing balance, coordination, gracefulness and focus. Tai chi has also been shown to improve blood pressure and relieve stress. There are modified versions that use simpler movements to avoid intimidating beginners.

Pilates

Pilates exercises were invented by German Joseph Pilates to strengthen his sickly body and later, to rehabilitate injured soldiers during World War I. Pilates introduced the technique to the dance world when he immigrated to the US. George Balanchine and Martha Graham were some of his disciples.

Pilates is a combination of yoga, Zen, ancient Greek and Roman exercises with the grace and fluidity of tai chi. The flowing movements strengthen and stretch the whole body but place particular emphasis on the abdominal and lower back or "core" muscles.

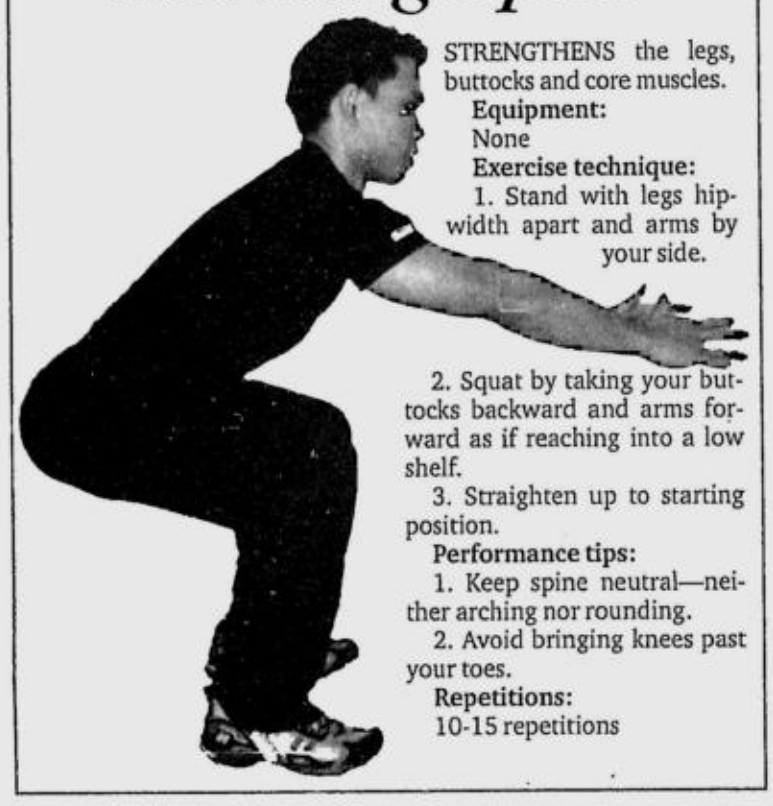
The exercises are done on a mat using the body's weight as resistance or on specially designed equipment called the "Reformer" and the "Cadillac" that resemble a sled or hospital bed with springs, bars and cables. There are also many types of "small equipment" like bands, balls, circles, and rollers to add variation to matwork Pilates.

Improved posture and strong "abs" are some of the benefits you can expect from Pilates. Although not as esoteric as yoga and tai chi, Pilates' emphasis on coordinating the breath with movement can also relieve stress and promote a state of relaxation.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Reaching squat



STRENGTHENS the legs, buttocks and core muscles.

Equipment:
None

Exercise technique:
1. Stand with legs hip-width apart and arms by your side.
2. Squat by taking your buttocks backward and arms forward as if reaching into a low shelf.
3. Straighten up to starting position.

Performance tips:
1. Keep spine neutral—neither arching nor rounding.
2. Avoid bringing knees past your toes.

Repetitions:
10-15 repetitions

Father knows best

FOR AN UPCOMING STORY in the Sunday Lifestyle section, tell us in 150 words or less what's the best piece of advice your father has given you, or what's the most important lesson you've learned from your father. Deadline is June 14. E-mail to dad2reader@inquirer. com.ph. Or mail to PDI-Lifestyle Section, PO Box 2353, Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, attn: Dad to Reader. Or text 09183824061. Include your full name, address and phone numbers.

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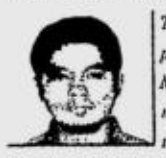
What is prostate gland and what diseases commonly affect it?

The prostate is a walnut sized gland that forms part of the male reproductive system. It surrounds the urethra just below the urinary bladder. It is located in front of the rectum and can be felt during rectal exam. Its main function is to secrete fluid that makes up one third of the volume of semen. Diseases afflicting the prostate are prostatitis, benign prostatic hyperplasia and prostate cancer.

It is common for the prostate gland to become enlarged as a man ages. Doctors call the condition Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH), or Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy. BPH rarely causes symptoms before age 40, but more than half of men in their sixties and as many as 90 percent in their seventies and eighties have some symptoms of BPH. The symptoms of BPH vary, but the most common ones involve changes problems with urination such as: a hesitant, interrupted, weak stream urgency and leaking or dribbling. If the condition begins to pose a danger to the patient's health or causes a major inconvenience to him, treatment is usually recommended.



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our accredited Urologist in Metro Manila, Dr. Cristopher F. Perez. He finished his medicine degree at the University of Sto. Tomas in 1992 and took his specialty training for Urology at St. Luke's Medical Center in 2000. He is been a practicing Urologist for 5 years already. Dr. Perez is a diplomate and fellow of the Philippine Urological Association and Philippine Board of Urology. He currently holds his clinic at St. Luke's Medical Center during Mondays & Fridays 2pm to 5pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-3pm, Wednesdays 3pm-6pm & Saturdays 9am-11am. And at the Philippine Heart Center, Wednesdays 1pm-3pm and Saturdays 12noon to 2pm. MEDICard members may seek his consultation services on those mentioned hospitals.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 8th floor Sagittarius Building H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Trunkline: [illegible] Fax No.: 894-6770; 810-3868 Text: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe & Touch Mobile) or 4627 (Smart & Talk 'N Text) E-mail: inquiry@medicardphils.com Website: www.medicardphils.com

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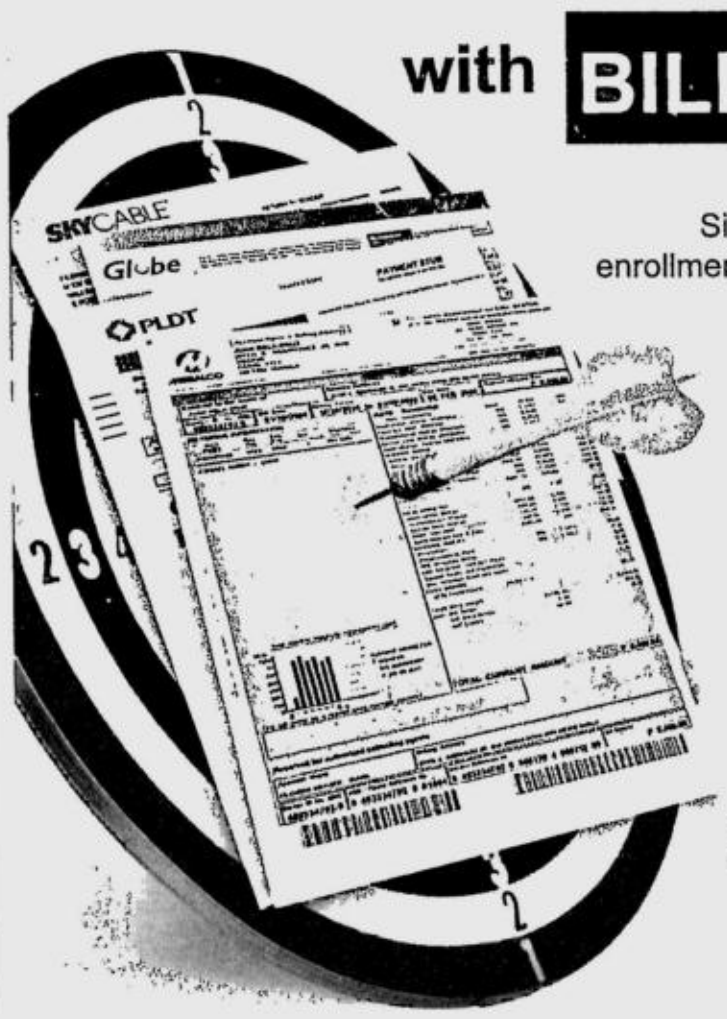

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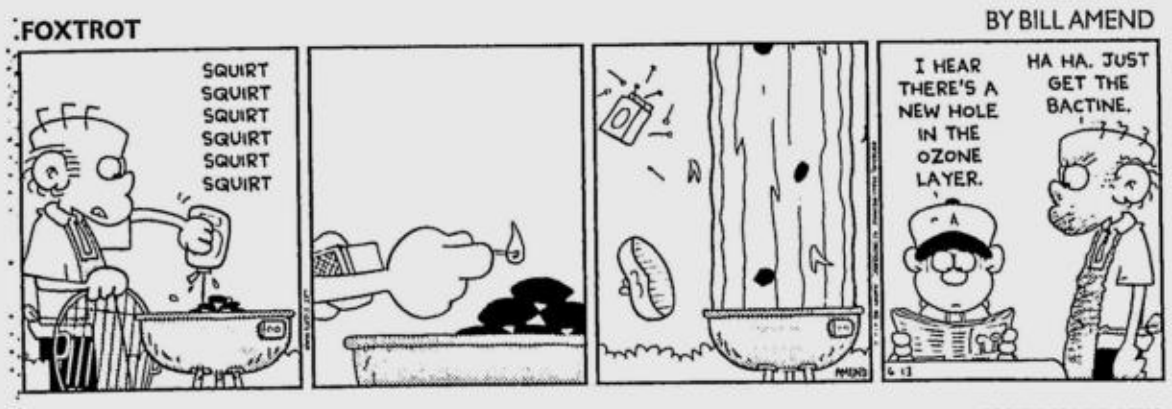
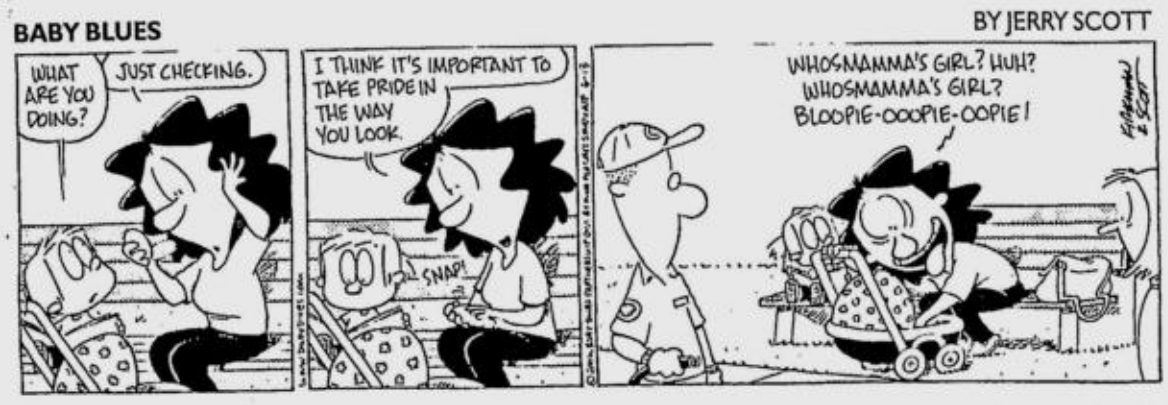
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND



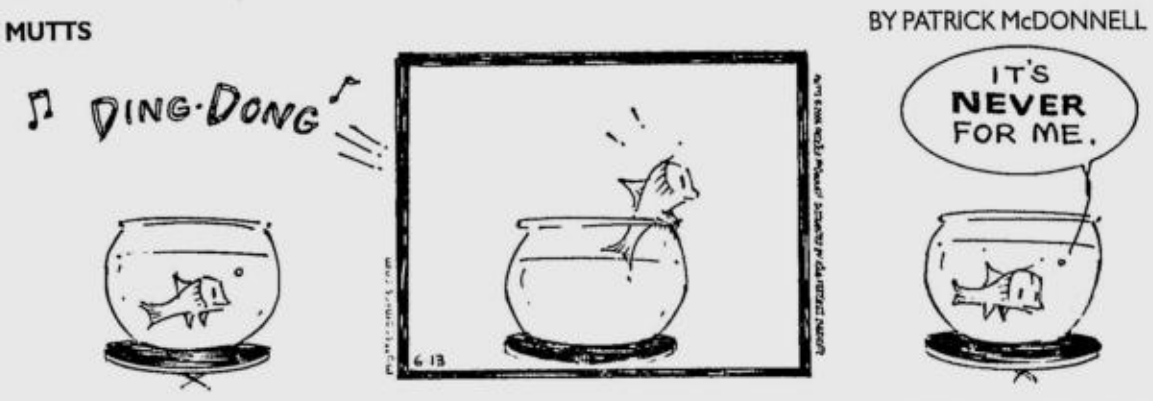
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT



PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

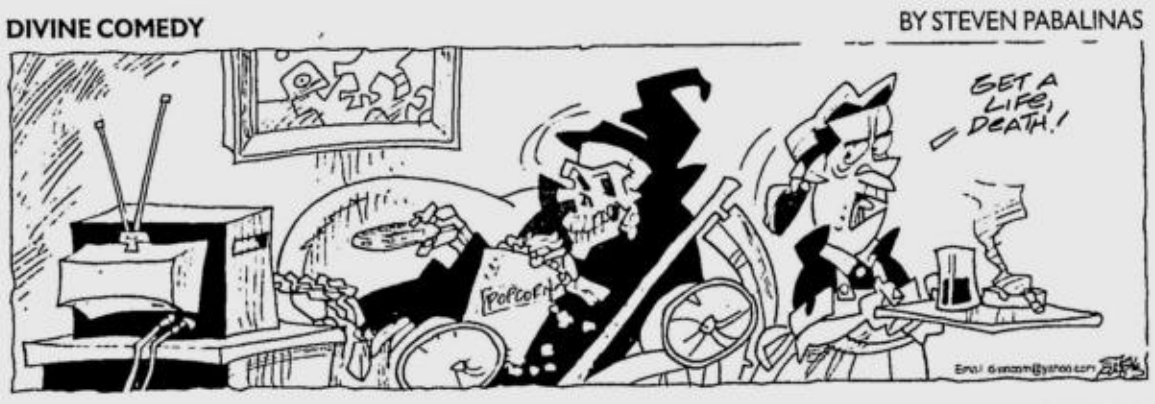
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



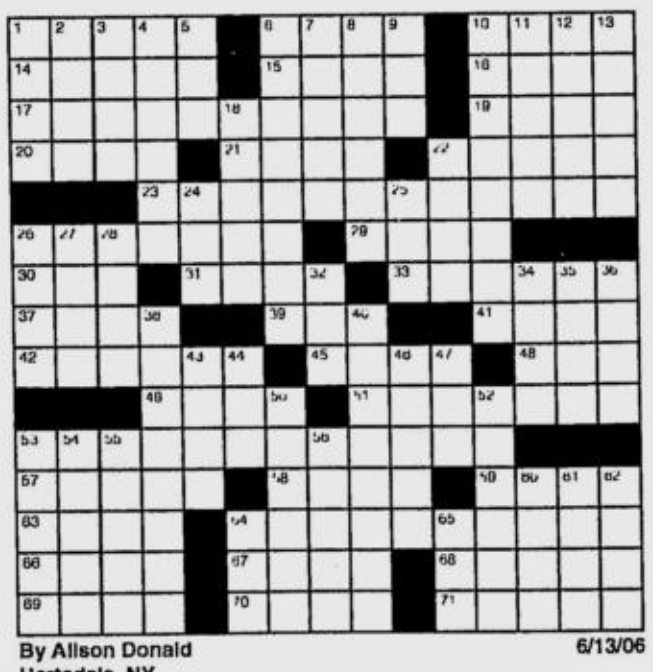
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alison Donald
Hartsdale, NY

6/13/06

ACROSS
1 Wild again
6 Steer flesh
10 Braided string
14 Perceptive
15 Glamour rival
16 Chuckle
17 Place to sign
19 Toiling away
20 Covering grades K-12
21 "The Time Machine" race
22 Actress Dunne
23 Conductor on a steeple
26 Island near Aruba
29 Back then
30 Mimic
31 Sunday night NFL outlet
33 Steel-gray metal
37 "Sixteen __"
39 Viewed
41 RR stops
42 Make beloved
45 Second to none
48 CIA predecessor
49 Confess
51 If all goes well
53 Stately dance?
57 Garbage emanations
58 Nothing in Granada
59 Church recess
63 Kind of duck?
64 Closed sign with an explanation
66 Quaker pronoun
67 Shuts down
68 Refine ore
69 Any day now
70 Lost in thought
71 Peddles

DOWN
1 Lose vitality
2 EPA concern
3 The Babe
4 __ the Hun
5 Director Spike
6 Some hotel employees
7 "Silas Marner" author
8 Pacific weather phenomenon
9 Fixed charge
10 San Diego team
11 Formula Western
12 Tanklike animal
13 Went steady
18 "Woman Drying Her Feet" painter
22 Ruler fraction
24 Curling surface
25 Bus. abbr.
26 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"
27 On top of
28 Tear to pieces
32 Put a collar on
34 Great Plains tribe
35 Large group
36 Gas from the past
38 Marine shade
40 Most eerie
43 Rara __
44 Ely or Howard
46 Wheat bundle
47 Little piggy
50 Actress Ryder
52 Blood bank supply
53 Electrical units
54 Potato type
55 Juliet's lover
56 Grocery store chain
60 Close-call comment
61 Web makeup
62 Tolkien trees
64 Neighbor of Aus.
65 Approx.: suff.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	S	E	S	S		W	E	S	T		G	E	S
B	A	R	N	E	Y		H	E	I	R		R	A	E
O	L	I	V	E	R	H	A	R	D	Y		O	R	T
			I	D	I	O	T	I	C		G	U	T	S
A	S	H	E		A	P	N	E	A		E	C	H	O
D	W	A	R	F		S	O	R	E		T	H	A	N
U	A	R		O	B	I	T		S	O	S	O		
F	G	O		R	U	N		C	A	L		M	A	B
		L	A	D	D		P	A	R	D		A	R	R
O	D	D	S		A	D	E	S		E	L	R	O	Y
B	A	L	K		B	E	L	I	L		O	X	O	N
O	W	L	S		B	L	I	N	D	E	D			
I	D	O		L	O	U	C	O	S	T	E	L	L	O
S	L	Y		E	T	N	A		E	R	N	I	E	S
T	E	D		S	T	E	N		L	E	S	B	O	S

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6/13/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're full of passion and a sense of adventure. You have a great imagination. You seem to get more out of life simply because you believe it's possible. You admire heroic deeds; in turn, people often admire you! Be generous in the year ahead. You're letting go of things in order to create space for something new to enter. Time to move on.
Birthdate of: Dorothy L. Sayers, detective story writer; Tim Allen, actor; Malcolm McDowell, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's quite easy for you to make a good impression on bosses, parents and teachers, especially later in the day. In fact, if you go out of your way to do so, your efforts will be noticed. (Great.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Travel plans and matters connected with publishing and the media look promising today. You could make a new friend from another culture, country or a different background from yours.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Little favors can come to you today. Somehow you stand to benefit from the wealth and holdings of others. Be ready for this.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your relations with partners and close friends improve as the day wears on. Enjoy socializing with groups and organizations this evening.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel quite industrious at work today. If you make suggestions, they will be well-received by people in power. (Bosses are impressed by you now.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might have good ideas about working with children today or making plans connected with vacations or artistic projects. You're in the mood to get something done!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Make improvements to where you live. Do something to make your home more attractive. Similarly, you can improve family relations this evening. Invite someone over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Later in the day, it's a good time to sign agreements or form contracts with others. Your ability to negotiate is strong and sensible now. You will protect your best interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If shopping today, you will want to buy practical, useful items that last a long time. You feel very sensible; you want to get good value for your money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The Moon is in your sign today, and it makes a favorable aspect to fair Venus. This helps you to get along with everyone. People are inclined to go along with what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Work alone today. You'll enjoy your own solitude. This is also a good day to do research.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): A confidential discussion with a friend, probably a female friend, will be reassuring for both of you. Look for a win-win situation in whatever you're doing.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

9	8		6			7		1
			7					2
5		4				6		
			9		6		1	5
				4				
6	4		8		3			
		9				1		6
7					8			
8		1			2		5	7

Difficulty Level ★★

6/13

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

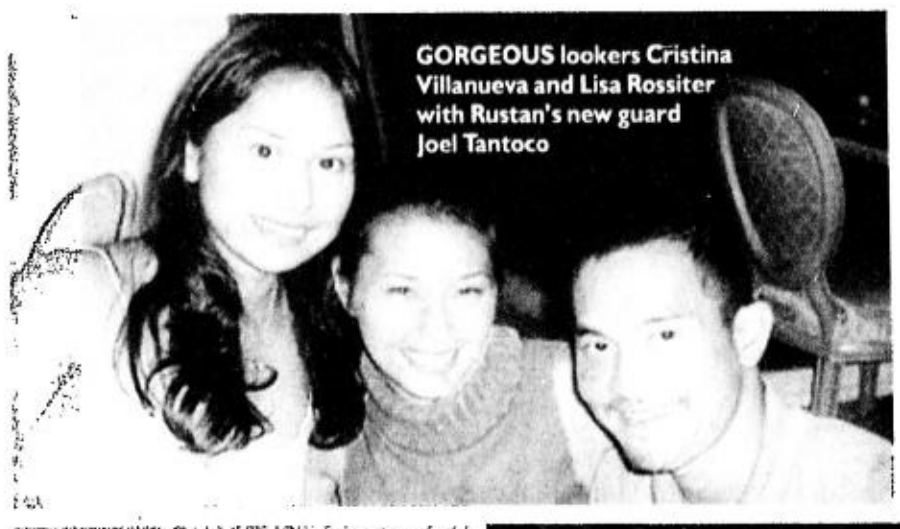
Answer to previous puzzle

5	7	2	4	9	8	1	6	3
8	1	4	6	2	3	9	7	5
3	9	6	1	5	7	2	4	8
2	6	3	7	8	9	5	1	4
7	5	1	2	4	6	3	8	9
9	4	8	3	1	5	7	2	6
6	8	5	9	7	2	4	3	1
1	2	9	8	3	4	6	5	7
4	3	7	5	6	1	8	9	2

Difficulty Level ★

VINCE Consolacion and Bea Tantoco

AFTER two years, it's a go for the miss-with-the-four-Bs Angelique Villaraza and top young architect Chut Cuerva.


GORGEOUS lookers Cristina Villanueva and Lisa Rossiter with Rustan's new guard Joel Tantoco

MICHELLE Periquet-Jones

ATTRACTIVE Michelle Pamintuan and Embassy and Temple's main man Eric Kua

JIGGER Antonio with sister-in-law Jackie Cohen and her husband Marco Antonio

SUPER pals: Hindy Tantoco, Celine Lopez and Wendy Puyat-Hotung

Elusive singles are engaged to be married

VENESSA Jison and world-traveler Alvaro Pertierra

JON Naval and Shu Uemura's Xeng Zulueta

MARCEL Crespo and Norman Crisologo

TOP stylist Miguel Rosales and Australian DJ Kristian Hernandez

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

YET ANOTHER POPULAR couple-about-town is officially off the market, *palanggas*.

After a *trés* controversial start, two hot years on the dating roller coaster and one brief but dramatic breakup, renowned young architect **Chut Cuerva** suddenly announced that he was tying the knot with "the woman I've finally lost my heart to." She is the brilliant miss with the four Bs, **Angelique Villaraza**, L'Oreal Professional Products division public relations manager.

This came as a shock to many (including *moi* who has been monitoring this love affair since day one!), as Chut is known to be a stubborn, anti-marriage bachelor who loves to fly solo, as much as he loves all-night partying.

Their engagement party was superbly co-hosted by **Tim Yap** and stylish southern beauty **Celine Lopez** at the cool and chic Embassy Cuisine at The Fort over free-flowing champagne and Absolut Vodka. Tons of party favors from Essenses were given away, care of **Joel Tantoco**, *natch*, who was *trés* visible with his own love, gorgeous and super nice **Lisa Rossiter**.

Present in full force were the couple's dearest pals **Marco** and **Jackie Antonio**, Shu Uemura's dynamo gals **Tina Tinio** and **Xeng Zulueta**; **Wendy Puyat-Hotung**, who jetted in from Hong Kong; talented designer **Hindy Tantoco** of Rustan's; international businessman **Marcel Crespo**; in-demand architect and interior designer **Anton Mendoza**; three young achievers **Jenni Epperson**, **DJ Montana** and **Miguel Rosales**; fab couple **Astrud** and **Norman Crisologo** and man-on-the-loose **Manny del Rosario**, plus a handful more.

I'm proud to admit, dahlings, that I prodded the groom-to-be to seal the deal in two years or bust!

I was told that in typical reverse-snobbery style, this super nice twosome plans to hold the wedding reception in their own backyard. Which means, *palanggas*, that we can expect a *trés* exclusive wedding party in nine months at the Cuervas' sprawling residence in posh South Forbes.

Ahh, *la amour toujou la amour*, dahlings.

Unparalled cinema

The fabulous Imax experience has finally landed on our shores, *palanggas*. SM Prime Holdings and the brilliant Sy *famille* formally launched the *trés* impressive San Miguel-Coca-Cola Imax theater at the sprawling SM Mall of Asia last week.

A massive snowcapped man-made mountain complete with synthetic snow welcomed us from the humongous parking lot into the fabulous lobby as we were treated to cocktails and yummy finger food with live music for extras, dahlings.

From there, we all went into the cavernous theater with 600 posh recliner seats and one of the world's biggest 3D movie screens, an awesome eight-story high!

A spectacular laser-light show welcomed the hot name-droppable guests of honor, including SM Prime Holdings' **Ric Camaligan**, Coca-Cola and San Miguel's **Bobby Huang**, Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland**, and Imax's **Jim Patterson** and **Don Savant**.

Believe *moi*, *palanggas*, we definitely had an unparalleled cinematic experience, with the premier of prehistoric spectacular "T-Rex" followed by the fantastic award-winning film "Everest!"

With upcoming 3D Hollywood films like "Poseidon," "Deep Blue Sea," "Polar Express," "Happy Feet," and the wow "Superman Returns," which is scheduled on June 28, all roads will be heading to the Mall of Asia for an amazing Imax experience.

Eggshibit

When *moi* got an invitation to the opening of the fab exhibition of the super talented artist par excellence **Lina Llaguno Cianis**, interestingly named "One Hundred Forty Eggs," I just had to rush to the popular Galleria Duemila despite the horrendous traffic because of the rain.

The opening was so different. Instead of the usual ribbon, they had strings tied to several eggs. Cutting the strings were *el simpatico* Italian Ambassador **Rubens Anna Fedele** and popular Pasay Mayor **Wenceslao "Pewee" Trinidad**. Fashion plate **Emily Relucio Lopez**, former governor of Guimaras and art lover, made sure she had one of Lina C's works for her collection, *palanggas*.

Also, there were actor **Robin Da Roza**; Bacolod Rep. **Charlie Cojuangco** on a rare outing; art critic **Cid Reyes**; well-known architect **Chito Antonio**; ADB social development specialist **Barbara Lochmann**; **Johannes Leodige** of Don Bosco Agro-Mechanical Technology Center; lawyer **Ramon Quisumbing**, plus many other art enthusiasts like them.

Naturellement, *la simpatica* **Silvana A. Diaz**, the energetic woman behind the success of Galleria Duemila, beamed with happiness from having been able to support such a talented artist.

What was so interesting was the "A Riddle—One Hundred Forty Eggs." Check it out! You'll definitely look at the egg in a totally different way.

TINA Tinio and Jenni Epperson

RESPECTED gourmand DJ Montano and ex-New Yorker Jaime Tantoco

BEAUTY runs in the *famille*: Sisters two Angela Montenegro-Arroyo and Rose Montenegro

IMAX'S hotshot Jim Patterson promises the best of the best at the Imax theater in SM Mall of Asia.

CHERIE Gil with husband Rony Rogoff, daughter Bianca and Raquel Villavicencio

TIN Arnaldo

IN THE caption for this photograph which appeared in this column on June 6, one name was inadvertently omitted. The caption should have read: Roman Romulo, Carla Sibal, Rainier Eubra, Anna Regalado, Mons Romulo Tantoco and Philip Abadicio; (seated) Sarah Samonte and Penny Sibal-Balbin.

CUTTING THE STRING: Maya Ciani; artist Lina Ilaguno-Ciani; Pasay City Mayor Pewee Trinidad; Italian Ambassador Rubens Anna Fedele; former governor of Guimaras Emily Lopez; and top lady of Galleria Duemila Silvana A. Diaz

More wonder cures

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Part 2

THERE ARE AS MANY COMMON ingredients or substances one can use for medicinal, beauty and practical purposes as there are days on the calendar. Here are more common health-friendly items:

Ice

In its liquid state, water has its limitless uses. But in its solid state, it is considered an emergency treatment for skin flare-ups/allergies/insect bites and bruises.

Apply in the affected area (wrapped in a towelette or hanky) for 30 seconds every minute for five minutes until the swelling or itch goes away.

For puffy eyes, apply on closed eyes for 10 seconds, resting another 10 seconds and reapplying every 10 seconds. Repeat three times. This is an instant face saver.

Honey

Having antibacterial properties, this golden liquid can be used internally and externally.

As morning tonic, mix one teaspoon in a cup of warm water. Add two teaspoons of apple-cider vinegar (also an antiseptic). Makes for a great tummy-cleansing flush. Safe to take on an empty stomach.

As a skin healer, apply directly on sores/bedsores. Cover up affected area with bandage. For bruises, apply directly as often as possible.

To raise blood sugar or ease exhaustion, simply place a small amount in your mouth. Prevents fainting spells and seizures.

As a sunburn soother, rub on the skin until pain and heat go away.

Salt

A beauty and health aid. As a toxin fighter, should one need to induce vomiting, take one tablespoon in a cup of warm water.

If you're suffering from sleeplessness or insomnia, you may have too little or too much salt intake.

Sodium enhances adrenalin, a hormone that causes excitement, so too much of it close to bedtime may make you restless at night. If you feel that your salt intake is too low, add three to four pinches of salt to your diet every day.

Lemongrass (*tanglad*)

Nervousness/restlessness can be eased by this herb. Make tea by steeping two blades of leaves in a pot of boiling water. Sip slowly. Also good for dizziness, headaches and stress.

Should you feel feverish or like you're coming down with a cold, sip the tea slowly. Take it as often as you can until symptoms are eased.

As a relaxing bath, place some leaves or pour five cups of the tea in a bath tub of hot water. Soak for seven minutes.

Coffee

This is called an old Italian secret. As a drink, strong coffee can fight indigestion and acidity.

As a beauty regimen, use natural coffee as a body scrub to enhance exfoliation and detoxification. Mix five tablespoons with two teaspoons of oil (any kind will do). Rub the skin gently but firmly.

Mind set: Throughout the rituals of using natural substances, remember it isn't only the ingredient as it is your state of mind that counts. These are just aids, but the biggest helper of all is yourself and your openness towards healing.

Your affirmation: "May I be well!"

Love and light!!

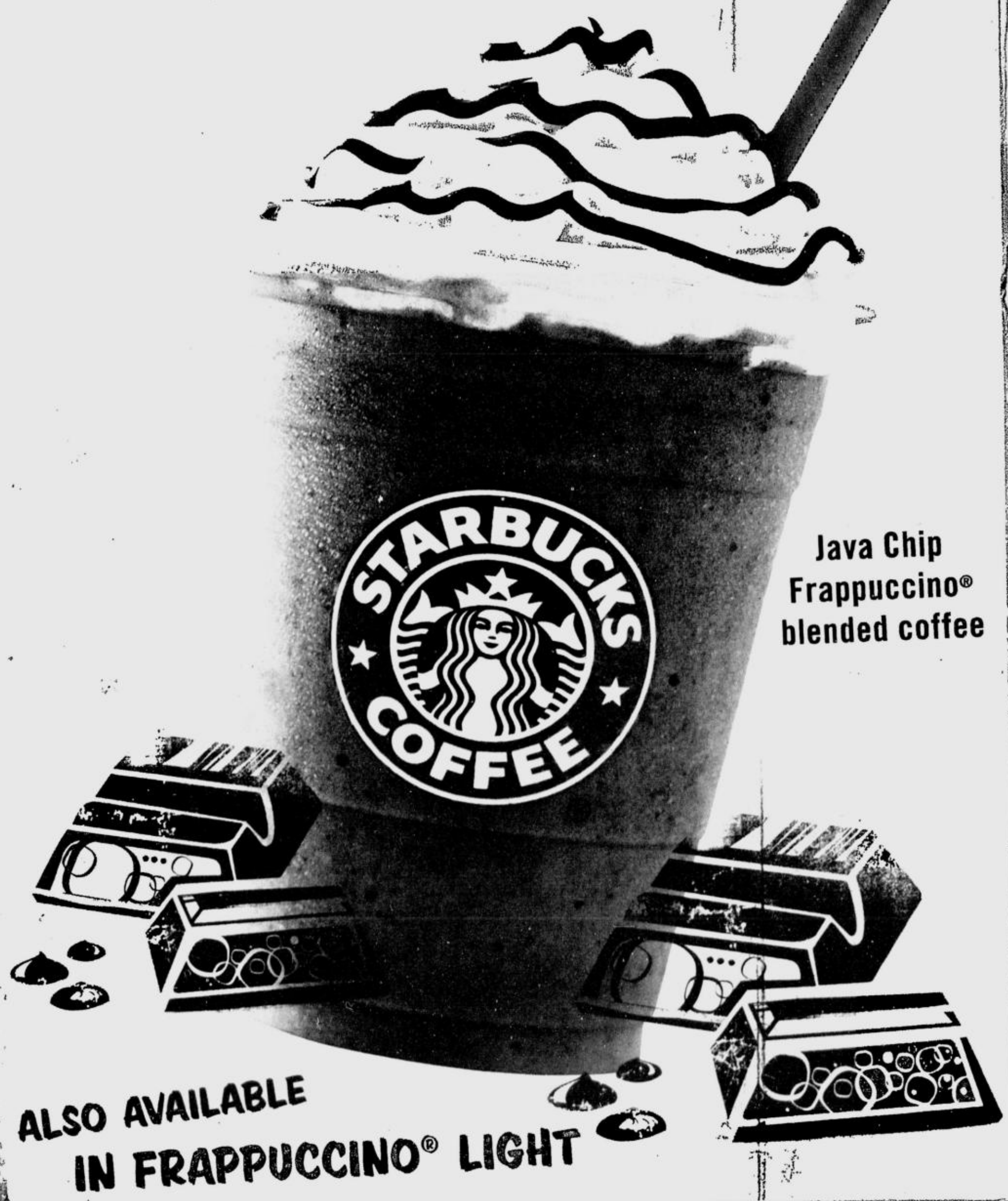
Reference: "A Treasury of Natural First Aid Remedies From A-Z," by James Kusick

JAVA Chip

FRAPPUCCINO® BLENDED COFFEE

Sumptuous chocolatey morsels.

Roasty-sweet measure of coffee.



Java Chip
Frappuccino®
blended coffee

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